

# Renovation SPECIAL

SAVVY, CHIC **STORAGE** 

AT HOME WITH

Comedian **Dave Hughes** 

**NEW-LOOK AGAPANTHUS** 





**EASY LIVING** Top ideas & great buys for beautiful outdoor rooms

**BBQ MENU** + Best wines under \$30





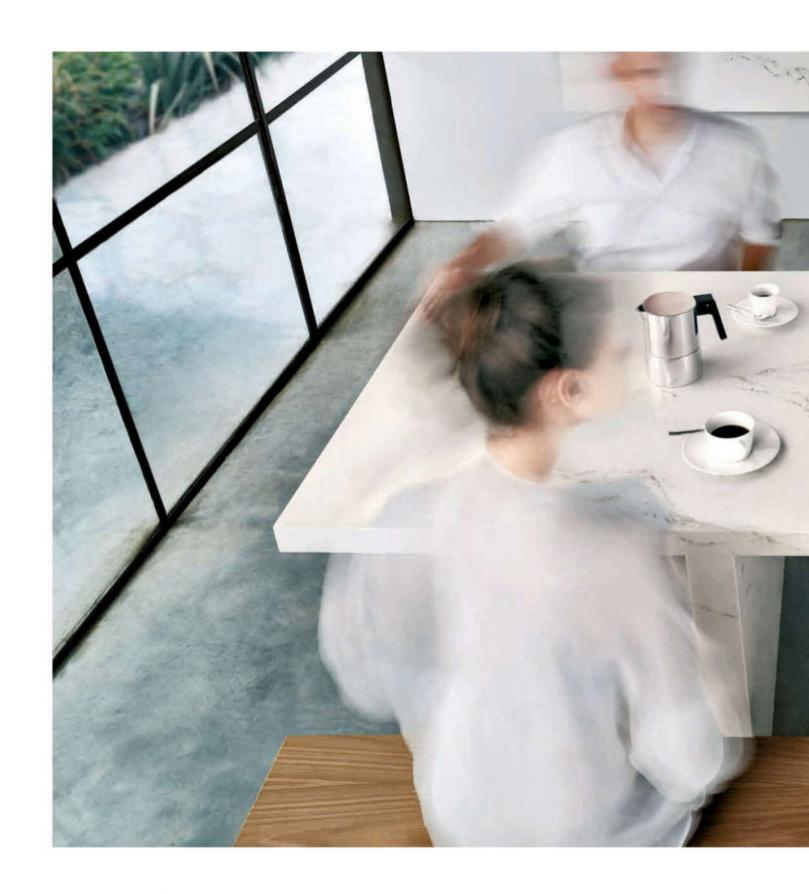




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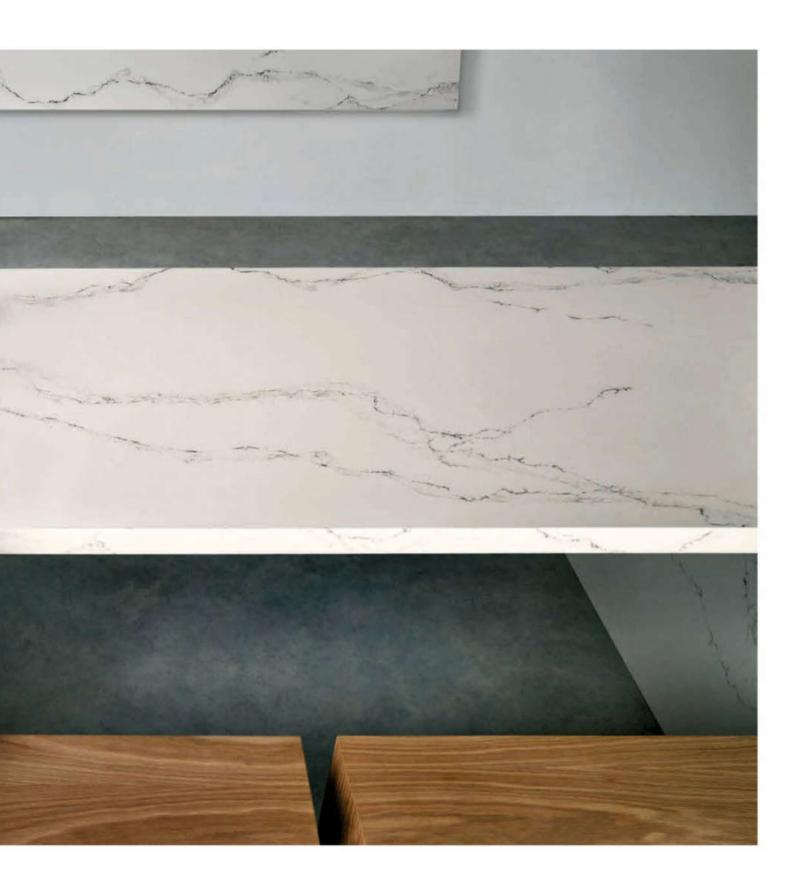
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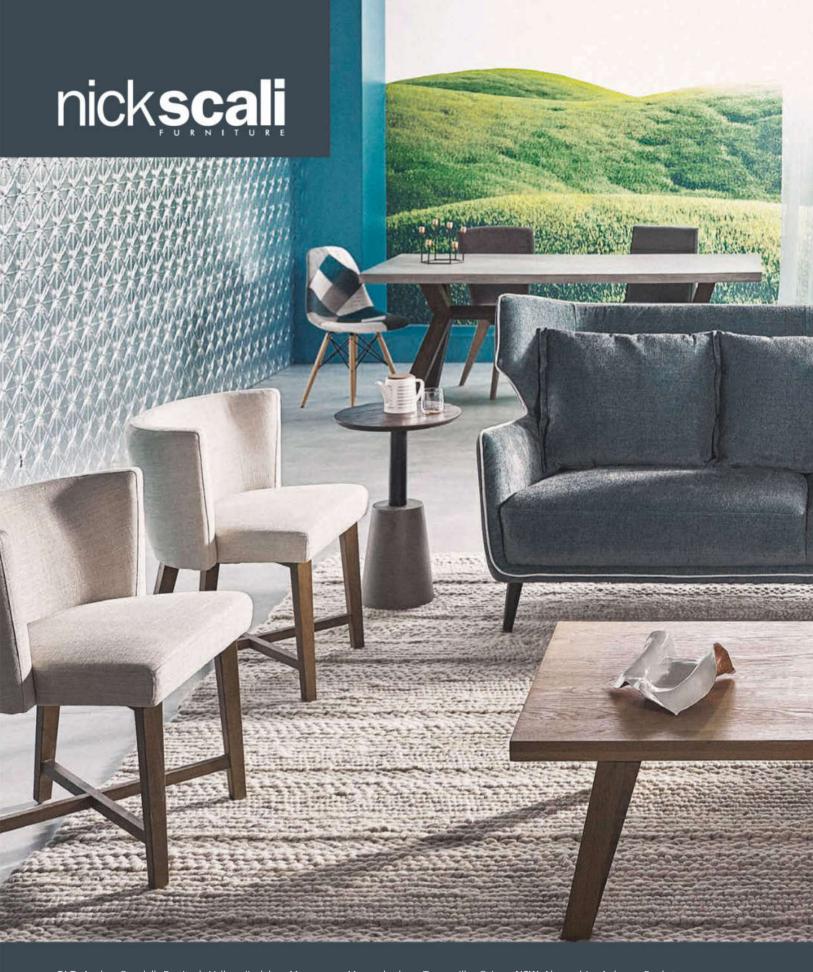


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# NOVEMBER

**RENOVATION SPECIAL** 

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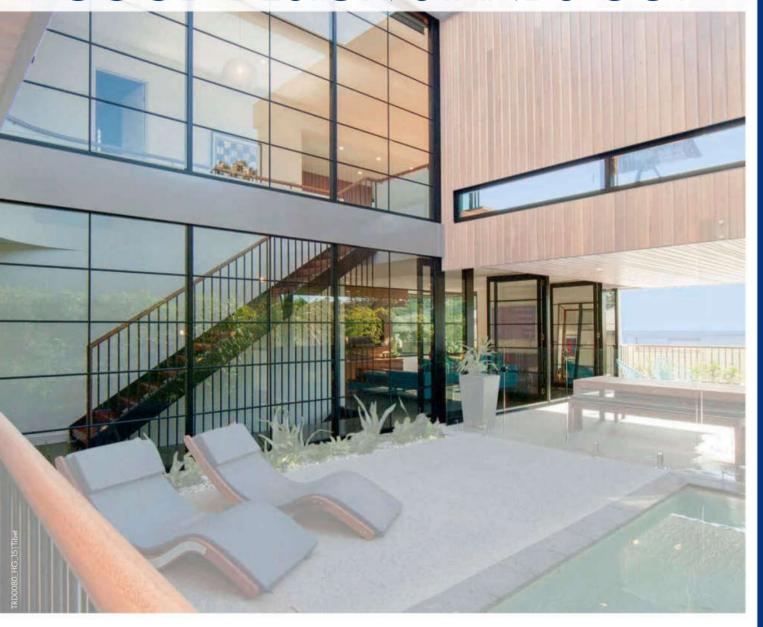
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love the sound of builder's boots on the stairs in the morning. It's the sound of progress, and carries the promise of a lovely new room. I'm writing this in my freshly tidied office, knowing that at home, a fine layer of builder's dust will have cloaked drop sheets and wafted under closed doors in my absence, despite my best efforts to shroud the furniture.

A little vacuuming is a small price to pay for a quick attic makeover though. We could have continued to finetune the details forever, but with an interstate guest coming to stay, and the date looming on the calendar, it's action stations.

There's nothing like a deadline to kick start a home improvement project. And now that we've flicked the renovating switch, the other finishing-off jobs will surely tumble too. What's interesting is the response from our children, who are as unsettled as I am excited by the process.

RENO REWARDS

This is all new to them, a great unknown. It's harder for them to see past the mess and inconvenience to the rewards.

All renovations, and even smaller home updates, are always invested with emotion. Often one party is far better equipped to imagine the finished home than the other. That's where a design professional worth their salt creates value, smoothing doubts and bringing the clients along with them.

Some people like everything shiny and new. I'm a sucker for a character-filled building that can be amplified and loved anew. I love seeing clever ideas employed to eke the absolute best from a home; the way noteworthy features are highlighted, while new additions make an old home the best it can be. Our renovated home stories this month range from the makeover of an historical Queenslander to an '80s home update and tiny cottages beautifully expanded. In all cases, growing families and poor useable space was inevitably the catalyst, and joy was the outcome.

Alongside reno reveals it's also time to unveil the winners from the 2015 Top 50 Rooms showcase. Huge thanks to our key partner Warwick and to our other valued sponsors. And, drumroll... congratulations to Alexandra Donohoe from Decus Interiors on her Room of the Year win. She's off to Maison & Objet in Paris in January! See p85 for the full list of winners.

Lisa

#### CONTRIBUTORS



HEATHER NETTE KING Stylist

"Colour is my number one passion, trick and tool," says Heather who assembled the joyously colourful roundup of outdoor furniture and accessories for our outdoor decorating feature on page 37. Styling is a passion that began nine years ago when she made the jump from PR.

"My family now thinks nothing of coming home to find the living room painted a different colour!"



MIKE BAKER Photographer

Working with Heather allowed Mike to combine two of his passions: image making and the outdoors. Mike says he enjoys the entire creative process, from painting and building sets to adjusting the light and capturing the images. When he's not behind the lens, you'll find Mike in the bush. "I recently built a little bush retreat and enjoy getting up there as much as I can."

# etters may be edited for length and clarity. Illustration by Allison Langton. Photograph by Will Horner.

## YOUR *H&G*

I began reading the September issue with our future renovation in mind, thinking clean white walls, airy spaces and lightness, just like the home featured on page 24 (All White Now). Halfway through and I was loving the look of the timber, concrete and brick in the kitchen of the Californian bungalow in the Kitchen Special. That's what I love about you H&G, you have the ability to showcase the best of everything. You've opened my eyes to new styles and concepts and I am inspired to rethink and finetune our design.

Emily Clarke, Ballarat, Victoria

#### Light fantastic

Your September coverline, 'Let there be light', truly spoke to me after what seemed a long, cold and dark winter. I was so excited that I had to peek inside while still in the supermarket. Then I raced home to absorb each wonderful page. The thought of spring decorating with H&G by my side is enough to get me through the hardest season. Janet Hayes, Lilli Pilli, NSW

#### On the same page

My first H&G subscription was a present from my mother-in-law a few years ago. When it expired she signed me up for a different magazine, but I contacted the publishers and swapped my subscription back to H&G. We're planning our first renovation and I get lots of inspiration from each issue, but the October edition was the best so far. All the ideas that I

envisioned in my head but couldn't quite articulate were there in the photos of an amazing home (Dark & Handsome). I came across that story while sitting outside my daughter's ballet class and got so excited, I squealed out loud! I felt as though I was looking at my future home. The colours, textures, materials and overall mood of the house were exactly what I've been trying to explain to my husband. So, now I can just show him the photos. Klara Dargue, South Geelong, Victoria

#### To give and to receive

Since my wife arranged a subscription to H&G as a birthday gift, I've found so much inspiration and information in your pages. It's given me many ideas for our own house and garden. Thanks to you, H&G, and my beautiful wife. B. Evans, Mt Eliza, Victoria



#### WRITE IN TO WIN

The author of every letter published receives \$50. Our favourite also wins a great prize. This month, Emily Clarke wins two Maiori Le Lamp Petite outdoor lights from Obodo, valued at \$649/each; www.obodo. com.au. Email letters to h&g@bauer-media.com.au with your full name and address or post to Your *H&G*, PO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028.



#### FLOWER OF THE MONTH

#### KANGAROO PAW

**Colours** Yellows, greens, pinks, oranges, browns, bright reds and even black.

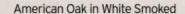
**Shape** Unopened, the tubular flowers appear in clusters of claw-like shapes on long stems (hence the name). When opened, they form a petalled flower with protruding pollen-bearers.

Look for "The bottom of the stems should be fresh and firm," says floral artist Fleur McHarg of Fleur in Melbourne. "If they're smelly, chances are they're not fresh and have been sitting in water for a while."

Best displayed "Due to the flower size, it's best to display kangaroo paws en masse. It's also nice to have a mix of open and closed flowers," says Fleur. "For the best result, use a trough-shaped vessel or a cylinder vase. The trough will give you a modern, stylish look. Steer clear of using anything too traditional."

Fleur, Armadale, Victoria; (03) 9804 3522 or www. fleurs.com.au. See Fleur's kangaroo-paw arrangement on our Pinterest page

on our Pinter in November.



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Every *H&G* subscriber<sup>†</sup> instantly becomes a member of the H&G Subs Club, with the chance to win great prizes every issue!

This month, you could win one of 25 gift vouchers from The Canvas Workshop, valued at \$200 each! Since launching an online art gallery with handpainting specialist United Artworks, The Canvas Workshop has worked extensively with designers and property owners seeking Australian-made prints that are contemporary and interior-design driven. A feature of the business is



the flexibility it can offer designers and decorators looking to customise works and designs for size and colour. Visit the online gallery at www.thecanvasworkshop.com.au.

Not a subscriber? Subscribe by November 1 to enter this month's draw. Visit www.magshop.com.au/hg/M1511HGS or call 136 116 and quote M1511HGS.

September winners: J. Goodwin, NSW; A. Aylmore, WA; S. Antunez, NSW; L. Kaufman, Vic; S. Robertson, NSW; J. Elmslie, Qld; M. Spring, Vic; C. Anderson, Vic; L. Ellis, Qld; W. Hensel, SA; L. Priestley, NSW; R. Paton, Vic; G. Griffin, NSW; A. Marsden, NSW; R. Borten, Qld; B. Vassallo, NSW; J. Chandler, Vic; R. Macneill, WA; J. Hughes, Vic; M. Stathers, NSW; L. Slater, Vic; L. Kay, NSW; A. Shurey, Vic; E. Aloisio, NSW; B. Freedman, Vic.

#### TURN TO PAGE 170 TO SEE THIS MONTH'S EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER.

 $\dagger Excludes third party and free subscribers. \ Visit www.magshop.com.au/hg/M1511HGS for full$ conditions. Entrants must be Australian residents aged 18+ who are current subscribers or newly subscribe or renew their subscription to Australian House & Garden by the competition closing date, 11:59pm (AEDST) on 01/11/15. Visit bauer-media.com.au for our privacy notice. If you do not want your information provided to any organisation not associated with this offer, please indicate this clearly at time of order or notify the Promoter in writing. The Promoter is Bauer Media Group Ltd (ABN 18 053 273 546). Authorised under permit numbers NSW:LTPS/15/05491 ACT: TP15/06672.

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#### **Masterclass**

DARREN PALMER **EXPLAINS WHY ZONING** IS THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTDOOR SPACE, PAGE 48.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Inner circle Dave 'Hughesy' Hughes lets us in on some family fun and the secrets behind the success of his home, page 29.

Storage know-how H&G senior stylist Ashley Pratt shares her storage must-haves, page 60.

Work in progress Architect Luigi Rosselli creates works of art; watch as he layers architectural details, page 95.

Calling all gardeners! All the details you need to know to enter the H&G Garden of the Year competition, page 150.

Dish it up Enjoy a bonus recipe – fresh and flavourful salad Lyonnaise – from Jared Ingersoll's French classics, page 168.

Ask away Interiors expert Rose-Marie Hillier will help solve your decorating dilemmas, page 197.

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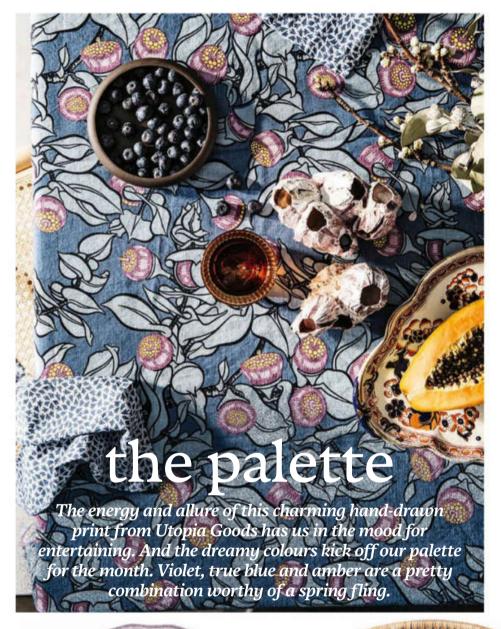
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#### **COLOUR CODE**

Porter's Paints Ocean Liner

> Taubmans Violet Echo

Haymes Paint Gilded Lily



#### **INSPIRED BUYS**

Violet Mottlecah linen-cotton tablecloth, \$149, and Blue Dittie cotton napkins, \$49/ four, Utopia Goods; (02) 9699 9710 or www.utopiagoods. com. Rebel crystalline (glass with metal oxide) decanters in (from left) Amber, Plum and Blush with stamped metal spirit labels, \$149/each, Waterford; 1300 852 022 or www.waterfordcrystal.com. au. Gagnet steel and rattan armchair, \$129, Ikea; (02) 8020 6641 or www.ikea. com.au. Tri Weave cotton cushion in Blush (40cm), \$89, One Another; (02) 9332 3223 or oneanother.com.au.

# HAYMES. AS INDIVIDUAL AS SIMONE HAAG.



Because Simone didn't want a look like anyone else's, she looked to Haymes. Her Scandinavian-inspired aesthetic called for a suitably refined backdrop. She found it in Haymes Organic 1 - a calming canvas for her considered collection of ceramics, art and furniture. To find a colour that celebrates your individuality and to locate your nearest exclusive retailers, visit haymespaint.com.au. See more of Simone's home on our website.









ABOVE / The dining table is positioned to catch plenty of sun, thanks to a prime northerly orientation and generous use of glass. Table and chairs, Luke Furniture. Popper pendant lights, Lab De Stu.

ABOVE RIGHT / The glass splashback, in Dulux Milly Green, adds a fresh note to this hardworking space. Caesarstone benchtop in Snow. Stools, Relax House.

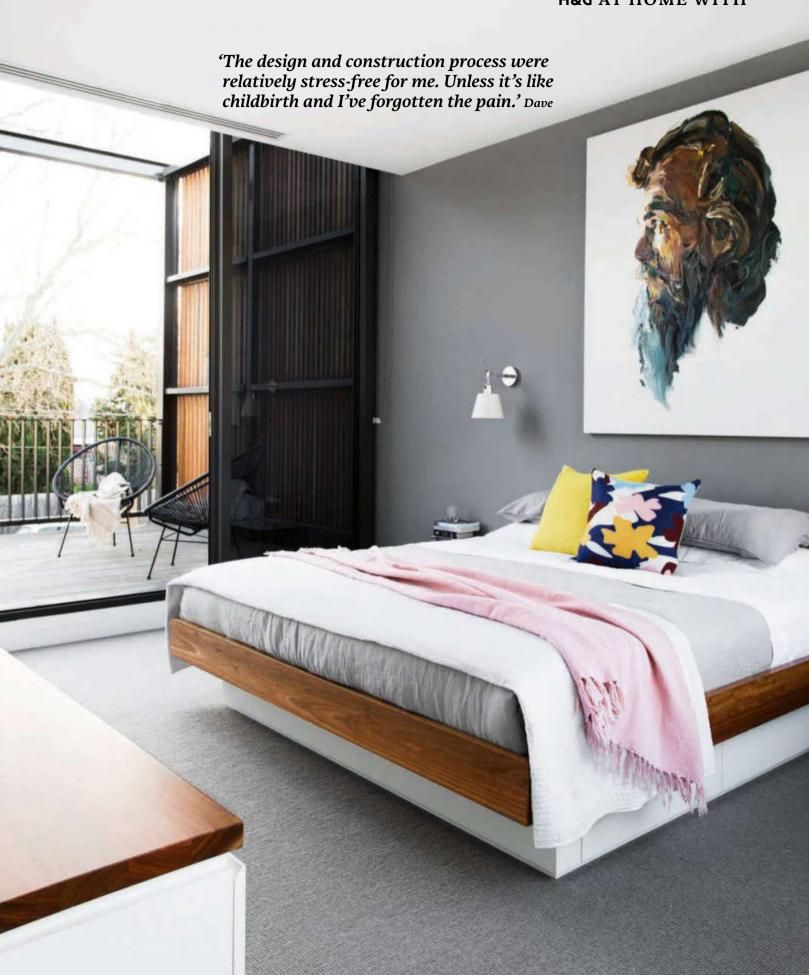
RIGHT / The play area was placed close to the kitchen and living hub. A rug from Jardan provides a comfy place for Sadie (left) and Tess to play. Sofas, Domayne.

Basket, Abode Living. Artwork by Dusit Pimchangtong.

OPPOSITE / Father and son make their way downstairs. The angled aluminium screen acts as a balustrade, yet lets light flow through the home from a north-facing roof window. Baskets, Manon Bis. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.







The family-friendly layout of this home is enhanced by its all-ages decor. Against a backdrop of white walls and mid-tone timbers, calm neutrals and shades of green soothe the grown-ups, while splashes of bright colours and high-tech finishes fire up young imaginations.



Mogens Lassen Line lacquered-steel candleholder, \$139, Norsu Interiors; www.norsu.com.au. *The Sediment of Memory III, 2015* painting by Eduardo Santos (180x150cm), \$6900; eduardosantosartist.com. Marimekko Saapaivakirja porcelain pitcher, \$195, Stem; www.stemonline.com.au. Husky hardwood dining table (2.4x1m), \$3239, Voyager Interiors; www. voyagerinteriors.com.au. Stripe linen cushion (65x40cm), \$88, Linen & Moore; www.linenmoore.com.au. Merricks seagrass baskets, \$55/set of three, Satara; www.satara.com.au. Gubi G10 aluminium and polished-brass floor lamp, \$1229, Cult; 1300 768 626 or www.cultdesign.com.au.

duced by Kayla (



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# **DECORATING**











OPPOSITE clockwise from top Wicker rocker, \$849, House of Orange. Tully steel and Batyline mesh easy chair, \$799, Eco Outdoor. Maharam Study cotton cushion, from \$135, Tait. Large Italian plastic pot, \$195, Julian Ronchi Garden Design & Nursery. Pleat concrete side table, \$399, The Shelley Panton Store. White ceramic pots, \$25/each, \$25, Julian Ronchi Garden Design & Nursery. Roger spotted-gum chair with aluminium arms and solution-dyed olefin seat, \$3279, Jardan. Modernica CS Cylinder ceramic pot (includes wooden stand, not shown), \$425, Top3 by Design. Ramon steel and synthetic-wicker chair, \$540, AJAR Furniture & Design. Tahiti rope bowl, \$55, Marmoset Found (on windowsill). Maiori Stipa aluminium and Novosier fibre armchair, \$630, Obodo. Medium Italian plastic pot, \$145, Julian Ronchi Garden Design & Nursery. All plants from Julian Ronchi Garden Design & Nursery. FROM PAGE 37 Wall made from recycled Grey Skin blackbutt, \$99/m<sup>2</sup>, Eco Timber Group. Nguni wire cow head, \$249, and African Totem palm fibre basket, \$179, Safari Fusion. Barrel concrete planter, \$70, Freedom. On The Side concretecomposite pot, \$176, Tait. Sling Back rattan sofa with cotton cushion, \$895, The Family Love Tree. ON SOFA from left Facet Harvest, Facet Black and Tribal Black cotton-linen cushions, \$85/each, Safari Fusion. Bulb water-hyacinth bowl, \$89, Marmoset Found. Cotton mat (90x60cm), \$99, House of Orange. Regal Oak engineered-timber flooring, from \$135/m² (supply only), Godfrey Hirst Floors. Wall painted Weathershield in Mossman Gorge, \$89/4L, Dulux.

#### GATHER 'ROUND

The fire pit is the new TV.
Pull up a chair, beanbag or cushion and settle in for an evening of conversation.

ABOVE clockwise from bottom left Trimaran Graphite polypropylene indoor/outdoor pouf, \$525, Winton House. Italian plastic planter, \$195, Julian Ronchi Garden Design & Nursery. Lagoon polypropylene lounger, \$1350, House of Orange. Cactus wire wall planter, \$50, and Tingle concrete pot, \$18, both Down To The Woods. GardenWall steel planters, \$270/each, Tait. Jasmine plywood wall tiles, \$29/each, Bonnie and Neil. Satellite Sunbrella fabric beanbag, \$561, Top3 by Design. Bulb water-hyacinth bowl, \$149, Marmoset Found. Turkish Kilim floor cushion, \$150, Gypsy River. Maharam Paver cotton cushion, from \$120, Tait. Cushion in Paul Bangay Stonefields Sunbrella fabric, POA, Elliott Clarke. Tiny Moon Sunbrella fabric pouf, \$468, Top3 by Design. Wall painted Weathershield in Starsilt, \$89/4L, and floor painted in Army Canvas, \$89/4L, Dulux.

RIGHT clockwise from top left Roca synthetic-wicker armchair, \$1565, and Must cotton-linen cushion, \$90, AJAR Furniture & Design. Steel fire pit, \$350, Fire-Away. Thor steel fire pit, \$770, and Volley zinc-plated rocker, \$1450, and seat cushion, \$210, Tait. Unearthed copper fire pit, \$1999, The Family Love Tree. Bright river pebbles, \$10/20kg bag, C. Fulton. All plants from Julian Ronchi Garden Design & Nursery. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.









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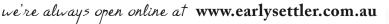
Richmond 03 9208 0600













#### MASTERCLASS #10

## OUTDOOR LORE



You can have a ball decorating outdoor spaces. Zoning takes care of practical considerations while contributing to the big picture, writes **Darren Palmer**.



here's no space quite as multifunctional as the good old Australian backyard. At various times it may be called into service as a cricket pitch, an outdoor kitchen, a dining zone, a space to catch some rays and a comfortable spot to enjoy the beautiful greenery you have toiled over.

The success of a backyard – or courtyard, terrace or balcony, as the case may be – relies on its flexibility, so it's crucial to set it up to accommodate all the things required of it, in a beautiful and sensible way.

Carving out zones within your space will not only help denote areas with different functions, it builds visual interest across your entire outdoor space. Each area can have a different but complementary palette of finishes and colours

Your outdoor living zone can be as soft and inviting as any indoor room. A seating arrangement may feature a weatherproof sofa or chairs, giving you an opportunity to play with colours and materials used in the frames, upholstery and scatter cushions. From outdoor coffee tables and side tables to all-weather rugs and cushions, there are many options for beautiful, durable decor items, each presenting a chance to complement and enrich your outdoor aesthetic. The palette will probably be different to that of inside spaces: you might use plastics or ceramics rather than veneers or perishable metals, and this opens up new opportunities for playfulness or adventure.

The rules for accessorising an outdoor area are roughly the same as for indoors, with some obvious exceptions. Instead of say, books, use succulents, bromeliads and potted trees to build up visual interest. Think about pots as design pieces and play with the size, shape and material. Employ them as stand-alone pieces, in groups, or perhaps placed along elevated plinths at eye level.

Where you would have lamps inside, play with candlelight outside. Try placing candles in lanterns or huge glass vases to create pools of interest with the benefit of that dancing, flickering glow. Or step it up with a fire pit around which friends and family can gather, even in warm weather.

Look around for whatever you find most appropriate to sit on, from tree stump-style stools to iron chairs. With built-in seating comes all the decorative possibilities that upholstery fabrics and cushions can deliver. A box or

#### **H&G** DECORATING



OUTDOOR DINING AREAS PLAY BY SOME OF THE SAME RULES AS INDOORS, BUT AFFORD YOU MORE CREATIVE FREEDOM.

◀ basket full of throws and blankets is a practical addition, if only for colder months. And there's nothing like the visual punch of neatly stacked timber waiting to do its job.

Other ways to build atmosphere include outdoor fireplaces, bioethanol burners and pizza ovens. The last can function as both fireplace and oven, providing a neat way to warm, entertain and feed a gathering.

Outdoor dining areas play by some of the same rules as indoor, but afford you more creative freedom. Try hanging a lantern over the table, pendant-style. Fairy lights hidden in tree branches by day will twinkle after dusk to give you an ambient and whimsical effect. Dress your table for guests as you would inside, but explore more casual, colourful or natural options. Linen, timber and plant-based decoration would be ideal. Or you may prefer to go crazy with colour in the form of decorative jugs and tumblers, or dinnerware in a different shade for each guest.

Happily, we are no longer limited to white plastic tables and chairs. In fact, a lot of the outdoor furniture options of the moment look as though they were designed for use indoors, thanks to a mix of smart design, soft upholstery, rich materials and an air of blissful, easy living. **H&G** 



#### **OUTDOOR LIGHTS**

#### PENDANT LIGHTS

Extend your enjoyment of alfresco zones into the night with a statement fitting. **Top, from left** Southhampton outdoor steel and toughenedglass pendant light in Antique Black, \$299, Beacon Lighting. Foscarini Gregg XL polyethylene outdoor pendant light, \$575, Space.

#### WALL LIGHTS

Stage-direct the mood amd ambience of outdoor spaces with wall-mounted units.

Middle, from left Orsay Up and Down aluminium outdoor wall light in Sandy Anthracite, \$231, Mondo Luce. Il Fanale Quadro brass and plexiglass outdoor wall light, \$1711, LightCo.

#### STEP LIGHTS

Use charming downlights to promote safety and security. Below, from left Dio copper and frosted-glass light, from \$220, Lights Lights Lights. Hunza Mouse Lite bronze light, \$265, Mondo Luce.



#### PERIMETER LIGHTS

Lead guests up the garden path in radiant style. Left Harbour 12V copper spike spotlight, \$100, Beacon Lighting. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

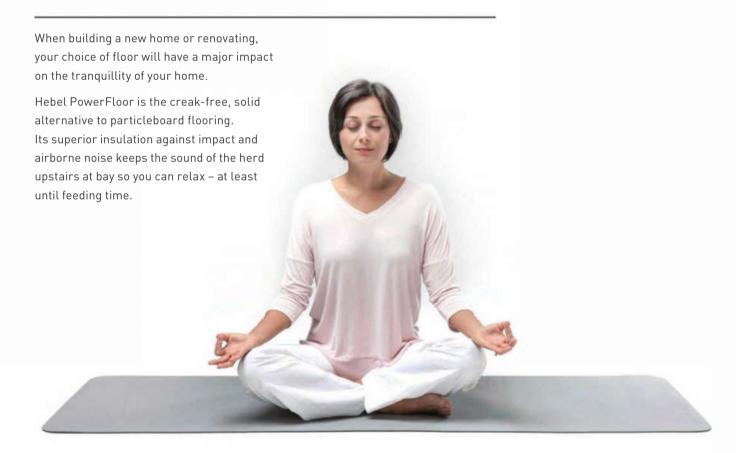
For more tips from Darren, use the free viewa app and scan this page.





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1/Zacharia metal pendant light in Petrol Blue, \$149, Freedom. 2/Osborne & Little Kayin Pasha wallpaper in Colour 02, \$239/10m roll, Seneca Textiles. 3 / Amalfi Priscilla copper-plate ceramic table lamp with cotton-blend shade, \$199, Crate Expectations. 4 / Living Textures cotton  $\textbf{face washer, towels and bath mats} \ in \ Teal, \$14-\$70/each, Sheridan. 5 \ / \ Dipped \ wooden \ \textbf{salad servers} \ in \ Petroleum/White, \$36/set, Few \ and \ Far.$ 6 / Enterprise velvet cushion in Ocean (50x60cm), \$90 (includes feather insert), Eadie Lifestyle. 7 / Coco 3.5-seater sofa with polyester upholstery in Mystere Peacock, \$3149, Oz Design Furniture. 8 / Himalaya Karma art-silk rug (2x3m), \$4200, Designer Rugs. 9 / As Time Goes By 90-minute H&G hourglass, \$43, Amalfi. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN / 53



1/ DCW Éditions Lampe Gras XL No.214 stainless-steel outdoor **wall lamp** in Black Satin, \$2310, Spence & Lyda. 2 / Conveyor steel **shelf units** with mangowood shelves (1x1.93m), \$799/each, Freedom. 3 / Menu Afteroom zinc-alloy **coat rack**, \$220, Top3 by Design. 4 / Universo Positivo metal and oak **bedside table**, \$525, Globe West; 1800 722 366 or www.globewest.com.au. 5 / Art P162 antique brass **door handle**, \$472, Pittella. 6 / Bonaldo Blazer metal **armchair** with cotton-linen upholstery, from \$3990, Fanuli. 7 / Grayson metal **stool** with upholstered seat, from \$899, Voyager Interiors. 8 / Rod steel and oak-veneer **console**, \$595, Weylandts. 9 / **Liquid Iron** paint, \$50/500ml, with **Instant Rust** finish, \$29/500ml, Porter's Paints. 10 / Uttermost Grantola metal **mirror** in Antique Gold (182cm high), \$1829, Wayfair. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

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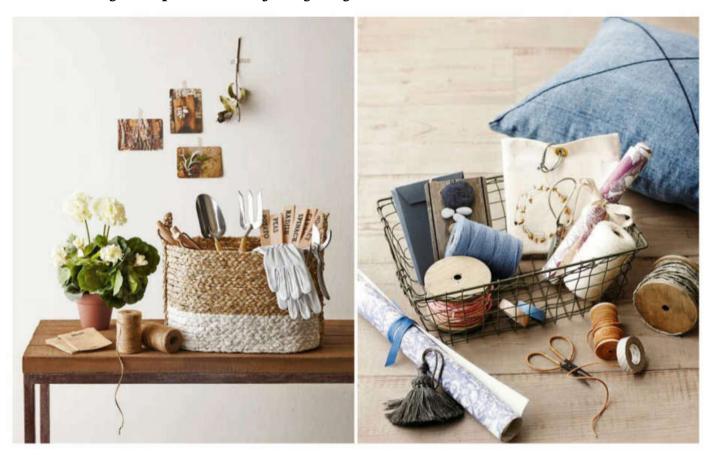
NESPRESSO BY KITCHENAID CAPSULE COFFEE MACHINE \$799 Available in 5 colours. Includes Nespresso milk frother.





Too much storage is never enough. Here, we profile our favourite tuck-away devices and the best ways to use them. STYLING ASHLEY PRATT / PHOTOGRAPHY WILL HORNER

#### Pretty and affordable, baskets in all shapes and sizes are a neat way to keep all manner of things tidy.



ABOVE LEFT Roma metal console with timber top, \$719, La Maison. Creamore Mill garden-seed envelopes, \$19/pack of 20, Father Rabbit. Potted faux geranium, \$20, Florabelle. Burgon & Ball garden/kitchen twine, \$9/120m roll, Quality Products. Seagrass basket, \$89, Maison et Jardin. IN BASKET from left Beech dibblets, \$16/each, Sophie Conran stainless-steel trowel and hand fork with beech handles, \$39/each, Scratch Protectors long leather gloves, \$42, and Vegetable Set 1 wooden plant labels, \$30/set of six, all Quality Products. Assorted postcards, \$20/set of 10, The Society Inc. ABOVE RIGHT from left Classic silk tassel, \$18, No Chintz. Caskata wrapping paper in Blue Peony, \$8/sheet, The Paperie. Fog Linen mini grocery basket, \$43, Father Rabbit. IN BASKET For similar envelopes, twine, washi tape and scissors, try Etsy. Fog Linen Leaf wire garland, \$20, Father Rabbit. Caskata wrapping paper in Aviary Plum, \$8/sheet, The Paperie. Series One greeting cards in pouch, \$45 (includes 12 assorted cards and envelopes), The Culinary Card Company. Maker's scissors with cane-wrapped handles, \$30, The Society Inc. Tri Weave cotton cushion in Denim, \$79, The Design Hunter. OPPOSITE Axelle armchair with cotton-viscose-linen upholstery, \$1980 (includes matching scatter cushion), Few and Far. Indigo Garden linen cushion with duck-feather insert, \$85, Georgia Macmillan Paints. Rattan basket, \$210, Maison et Jardin. Moss Stitch king/queen-size cotton blanket, \$439, Bemboka. For similar glass vase, try Zanui. Milk Churn metal lamp, \$127, and jute shade, \$83, Emac & Lawton. Safari Weave recycled-PET rug in Oatmeal/Ash (90x180cm), \$385, Armadillo&Co. Texline Urban vinyl flooring in Keywest Gris, \$60/m² (installed), Gerflor. Wall painted Wash & Wear 101 in Narrow Neck Quarter, \$41/L, Dulux.

#### More beaut baskets

FROM LEFT Dipped tapered wicker basket, \$109, Freedom. Jute bowl, \$65. The Dharma Door. Zambezi woven-grass basket, \$130, Eb&Ive. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.





# Light and mobile, a trolley makes a useful storage hub in a space-challenged room.



ABOVE LEFT Redecker beech bath brush, \$30, Saison. Iron trolley, \$450, Few and Far. TOP SHELF from left Côté Bastide Rose bath salts, \$20, Simpatico White Flower Hobnail candle, \$50, Redecker natural sponge with duck, \$30, Barr-Co wrapped soap, \$18, Côté Bastide Fleur d'Oranger bubble bath, \$45, Redecker Whale children's bath brush, \$25, Côté Bastide Tilleul/Linden bath salts, \$70, Redecker beech face brush, \$13, all Saison. Waffle cotton hand towels, \$15/each, Mediterranean Markets. BOTTOM SHELF Turkish cotton bath towels, \$74/each, Bemboka. For similar wall treatment, try 180fx Surfaces laminate in Carrara Marble, Laminex. ABOVE RIGHT Mid-Century walnut-veneer bar cart, \$499, West Elm. TOP SHELF from left Bar Mop cotton tea towel, \$25/four, Williams-Sonoma. Faux boxwood topiary, \$32, Florabelle. Purple glass tumblers, \$20/each, Maison et Jardin. Angelica glass decanter, \$90, and Exquisite glass decanter, \$90, Krosno. Dorset crystal spirit decanter, \$160, Williams-Sonoma. BOTTOM SHELF Purple wineglasses, \$27/each, Maison et Jardin. Dorset crystal highball glasses, \$38/each, and Dorset crystal cocktail shaker, \$160, Williams-Sonoma. Pienza linen-cotton fabric, \$285/m, Busatti. OPPOSITE Normann Copenhagen Block ash trolley with steel trays, \$465, Top3 by Design. TOP SHELF from left Pretty Brave leather moccasins, \$45, Father Rabbit. Sammy Snail toy, \$70, and cloth-bound journal, \$40, Papier D'amour. Bloomingville Star wooden tray, \$44, Father Rabbit. Chindi yarn, \$20/ball, Papier D'amour. BOTTOM SHELF from left Round Rabbit toy, \$35, and felt wombat, \$18, Papier D'amour. Cotton bunny, \$89, and Waffle embroidered-cotton guest towels, \$85/each, Busatti. Lightweight Cosy acrylic throw, \$79, Pottery Barn. Pretty Brave Leopard espadrilles, \$45, and Hare by Angela McKay framed print, \$99, Father Rabbit. Linen dress, \$89, Busatti. Sierra Weave wool-viscose rug in Seafoam (1.7x2m), \$750, Armadillo&Co. Wall painted Wash & Wear 101 in Brume, \$41/L, Dulux.

#### More top-notch trolleys

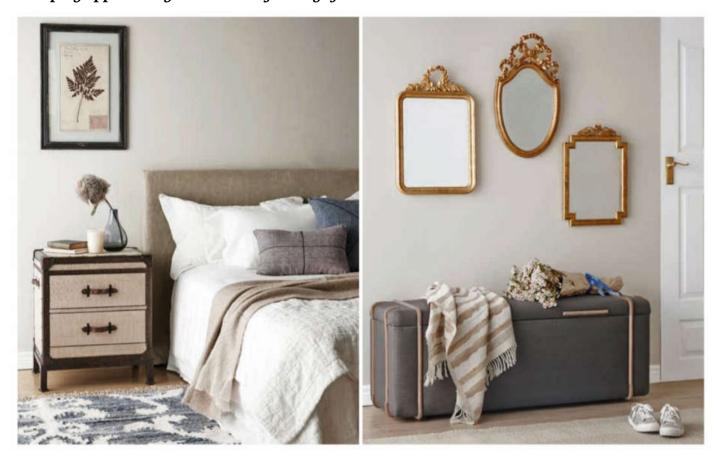
FROM LEFT Wade brass bar cart with glass shelves, \$1910, Boyd Blue. North metal and American oak veneer tallboy on castors, \$3840, Jardan. Savoy metal three-tier kitchen trolley with wooden shelves, \$249, Freedom. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.





#### **H&G** DECORATING

Simple and elegant, the trunk offers convenient storage, a display opportunity and a dash of vintage flair.



ABOVE LEFT French Botanical framed print, \$389, Maison et Jardin. Redford Trunk hardwood bedside table with leather handles, \$654, Pottery Barn. Simpatico White Flower Hobnail candle, \$50, Saison. Sashay glass bulb vase (22cm), \$70, Krosno. Joe queen-size bedhead with washed-linen cover in Khaki, \$950, MCM House. ON BED from rear Abbotson linen pillowcases, \$80/each, queen-size flat sheet, \$240, and queen-size bed cover, \$400, all Sheridan. Tri Weave embroidered-cotton cushions, \$69 (50x30cm) and \$79 (50x50cm), The Design Hunter. Hyams wool-acrylic throw, \$110, Few and Far. Damask wool and recycled-denim rug (1.6x2.3m), \$650, Few and Far. ABOVE RIGHT Laurel Crown mirror (left), \$850, Gold Shield mirror (centre), \$670, and 18th-century bevelled-edge mirror (right), \$680, Laura Kincade. Harry upholstered trunk (131x42x49cm), \$899, La Maison. Silk-wool throw, \$299, Maison et Jardin. Shoes, stylist's own. Safari Weave recycled-PET rug in Oatmeal/Ash (90x180cm), \$385, Armadillo&Co. OPPOSITE Timothy Oulton Globetrekker aluminium-plated coffee table (113x73x43cm), \$5655, Coco Republic. Leather-bound journals, \$140/each, Few and Far. Sashay glass bulb vase (18cm), \$60, Krosno. Benson three-seater sofa with linen-blend upholstery, \$2199, Freedom. ON SOFA from left Blue Splatter cotton cushion, \$45, Few and Far. Indigo Spots linen cushion with duck-feather insert, \$85, Georgia Macmillan Paints. Reversible Rib cotton throw in Dove/Oyster, \$319, Bemboka. Abstracted Landscape Blue #4 (left) and Abstracted Landscape Blue #1 artworks (72x110cm), \$1395/each (framed), Coco Republic. Herringbone Weave wool rug in Limestone/Charcoal (size?), from \$385, Armadillo&Co. Wall painted Wash & Wear 101 in Narrow Neck Quarter, \$41/L, Dulux.

#### More terrific trunks

FROM LEFT Repurposed Army MDF and canvas trunk (46cm³), \$275, Weylandts. French Chic timber chest (75x40x44cm), \$390, Ghify. Vintage Retro linen-covered suitcases, \$135 (small) and \$165 (large), Lifestyle Home and Living. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.











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# INSIDER

#### **H&G** INSIDER

#### SIBELLA COURT Stylist

The "imaginarium" in Sydney's east that Sibella shares with her partner Ben and their daughter, Silver, is a trove of collected treasures.

#### MY FAVE THINGS

(see previous page) **Sofa** This is a piece by my friend Charlie Hinckfuss, the owner of MCM House. He has impeccable taste. **Books** You can never, ever have too many books! Lion mask Made by my friend, the talented paper artist Anna-Wili Highfield for my 40th birthday. I wanted to go as Aslan from The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. Coffee table This was bought at auction. I shop at auctions every week. Smoky quartz Stunning to look at and very powerful. Throw This throw is made using the traditional Japanese boro technique, in which old textiles are 'refabricated'. It's from Edo Arts. **Display case** This is the sum of my adventures, my very own Cabinet of Curiosities. It reads more like 3D wallpaper. Porcupine needles Found

while travelling in Italy.

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1903



1920 Sarsparilla and cherry flavourings

1955 Fans of fizzy drink



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Give yourself plenty of time instore to find the right mattress. Spend at least five to ten minutes lying in your normal sleep posture on each mattress, and talk to a bedding specialist about any particular needs you have.

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DESIGN MOMENT

## THE BKF CHAIR

Lightweight and ultra comfortable, it's little wonder the beautiful BKF, or Butterfly, chair sends hearts aflutter, writes Chris Pearson.

rchitects Antonio Bonet, Juan Kurchan and Jorge Ferrari Hardoy (BKF) returned to Buenos Aires in 1938, after completing apprenticeships with Le Corbusier in Paris. They formed the architectural firm Grupo Austral and soon landed a contract to design a Modernist apartment building and fit-out, for which they required a suitable chair.

The result was disarmingly simple — a sinuous easy chair with a leather seat, slung hammock-like, on two bent tubular-steel rods. It was inspired by the Tripolina chair, designed by Englishman Joseph Fenby in 1877 and used in North Africa and the Middle East by British expats and army officers. The Tripolina had a timber frame and a hide seat, and sat stably in the sand thanks to its sled feet. Being foldable and lightweight, it was also a breeze to transport. Le Corbusier's 1928 Basculant chair, with a sling seat on a metal frame, was likely also influenced by the Tripolina.

In 1940, the BKF trio displayed their chair at the Buenos Aires 3rd Salon de Artistas Decoradores exhibition, where the Butterfly caught the eye of American Edgar Kaufmann Jr, son of the owners of the Kaufmann's department store chain and the sublime Fallingwater house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Kaufmann bought one for his parents' new home and another for the Museum of Modern Art, of which he was industrial design curator.

The Butterfly also charmed high-profile manufacturers. Manhattan-based

1877 Joseph Fenby's Tripolina chair. 1928 Hints of the Tripolina can be seen in Le Corbusier's Basculant chair. 1940 The original BKF with leather seat. 1953 The Butterfly chair starred on the cover of *H&G* in June 1953. 2015 A colourful Muumuu Butterfly chair with practical canvas seat. Artek-Pascoe produced it between 1941 and 1947, while Knoll assumed the licence from 1947 to 1951, surrendering it when the company failed to stem a flood of lookalikes. Next, Airborne in France took it on, dubbing it the AA (Architecture d'Aujourd'hui) chair.

Today the Butterfly — and the Tripolina — remains in full flight, produced all over the world, from Sydney to its hometown of Buenos Aires.

Martine Wood of Muumuu Design in Sydney has produced both chairs for seven years. "The geometric simplicity has always fascinated me, not to mention the appeal of the unconventional and relaxed seating that this design offers. It's Modernism in a chair," she says.

Santiago Palermo of Big BKF in Buenos Aires, which has been making BKF and Tripolina chairs for 25 years, says both his parents and his grandparents had BKFs in their homes as he grew up; a handful of the estimated 10 million that have been manufactured worldwide over the years.

What's so special about the homegrown version? "The curves and the Argentine leather," he says. And, unlike many BKFs, they are "demountable", making it ultra-convenient to ship them across the globe.

#### WHAT IT MEANS TO US

While its airy, sculptural design tapped into the '50s zeitgeist and continues to lure retro lovers, the Butterfly's practicality also ensures its endless appeal. Its feather-light frame ensures it's easily moved from one room to the next. Change the covers from leather to canvas and it will migrate from inside to out. Above all, it straddles decorating styles and budgets. With Muumuu's prices starting from \$130 for canvas and \$440 for leather seating, plus the frame at \$380, the BKF democratises fine design. muumuu.net.au; bigbkf.com.



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FIESTMAS





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Left Furniture Stockholm 5-Piece Round Dining Setting, \$899. Left Homewares White House Dinner Plate, \$9.95 each; Bowl, \$12.95 each. Host Tea Spoons Rose Gold, \$39.95 Set of 6; Forks Rose Gold, \$39.95 Set of 6. Glass Teal Facet Bauble Copper Glitter, \$10.95. Hardware Lane Cake Plate Mint, \$24.95; Teapot Mint, \$29.95; Espresso Cup, \$19.95 Set of 4. Dipped Candle Stick Mint, \$24.95; Copper, \$24.95. Shine Lantern House Large, \$45; Small, \$24.95. White House Tea Cup & Saucer, \$12.95. Diamond Side Glass Ornament, \$9.95. Cardboard Teal & Gold Finial, \$12.95. 2 assorted. Mink Pendant Copper, \$199.95. Middle Homewares White House Dinner Plate, \$9.95; Side Plate, \$8.95; Bowl, \$12.95. Society Cake Stand Silver, \$59.95. Vega Clear Copper Ornate Vase Large, \$19.95: Small, \$16.95. Terrance Clear Teardrop Vase Large, \$14.95; Small \$11.95. Glow Dimpled Ceramic Candle Silver, \$14.95; Rose Gold, \$14.95. White House Tea Cup & Saucer, \$12.95. Just Peachy Framed Print, \$120. Feather Mini Wreath Teal with Gold Glitter, \$15.95. Right Homewares Foundry Bergamont & Mahogany Copper Candle 180z, \$64.99; 120z, \$49.98. Host Cake Forks, \$39.95 Set of 6. Marble Look Porcelain Round Paddle, \$119.95. Cardboard Teal & Gold Finial, \$12.95 2 assorted. Copper Tea for Two Set, \$49.95. Hardware Lane Cake Plate White, \$24.95.



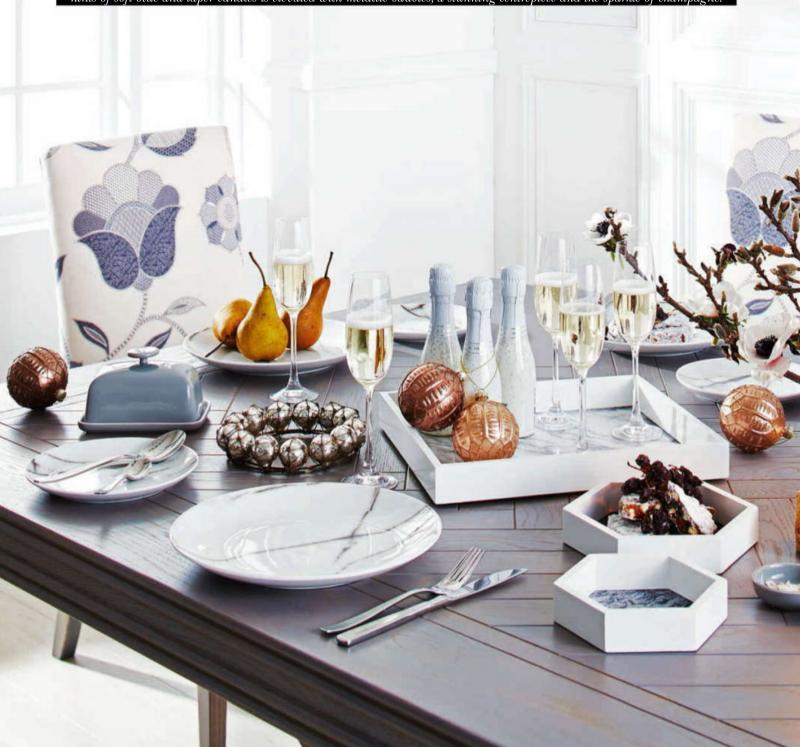


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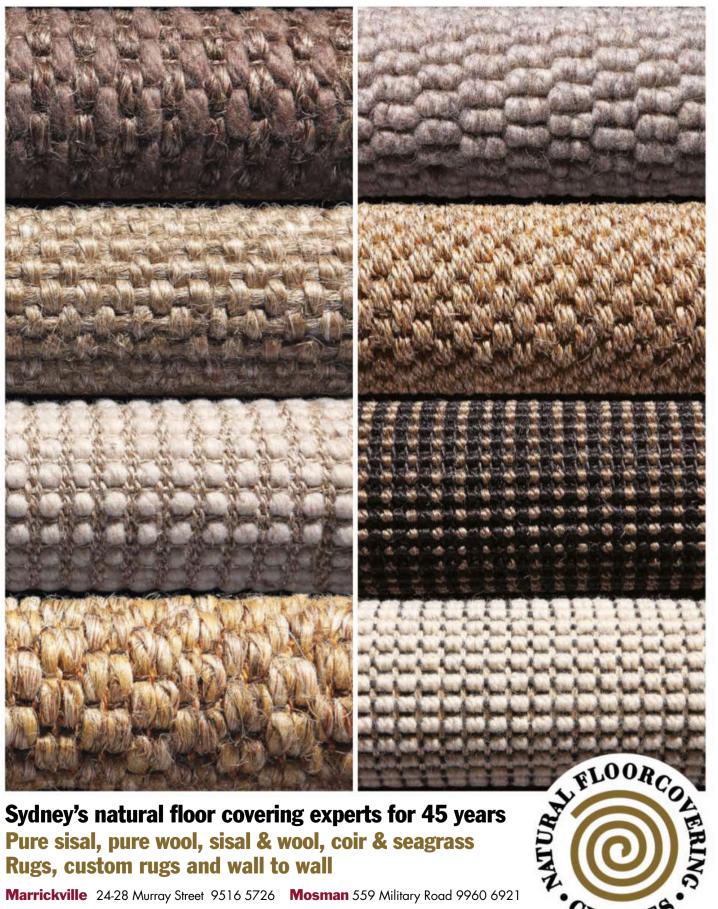
FIESTMAS





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# International hotel designer and guest judge of *H&G*'s Top 50 Rooms, Kit Kemp talks decorating with Sydney colour educator, **Di Swinbourn**.

ne can never feel glum in a Kit Kemp-designed hotel. Her colours are vibrant and upbeat, her tablescapes brim with eclectic objets d'art and there are playful pieces at every turn. In the public areas there are nooks featuring patterned fabrics, deep sofas, and vintage pieces mixed with classic, while the guest rooms are luxuriously and individually styled.

Kit and her husband Tim established the award-winning Firmdale group of hotels 30 years ago. Tim is the numbers man, Kit's the designer; together, they have a portfolio of 10 properties across London and New York. Their newest is the Ham Yard Hotel, which opened to much acclaim for its urban renewal design in London's Soho last year. Their latest property, The Whitby, will open in New York in a few months.

Kit learnt her craft on the job, starting with designing a London hostel in the early 1980s and then, in '85, the Dorset

Square Hotel, where the Kemps broke the mould of hotel design with their modern–English townhouse style. "That was the first time I featured in a magazine," says Kit. "But we still had to fight to get backing for the next."

Each with their own vibe, Firmdale hotels cover most types of travellers. The Haymarket Hotel attracts a theatre crowd, Charlotte Street is full of advertising types, Number Sixteen has a beautiful garden, Ham Yard is a hip destination, and The Soho Hotel appeals to media types.

As design director, Kit has the freedom to hone a 'colourful and carefree' style that is uniquely her own. But is quick to add, "Of course, the work that goes into the detail is anything but carefree".

Nowadays Kit works with a creative team of nine, including two of her three 20-something daughters, one trained in architecture, the other in graphic design. "I can't do it all, and I need their freshness and enthusiasm," she says.

For inspiration, Kit collaborates with British artists. The neon silk thread installation above the reception desk at Ham Yard is by Hermione Skye O'Hea, a young designer Kit discovered when attending a graduation exhibition at Chelsea College of Arts. Hermione is now working on an even grander installation for The Whitby. The late Sandra Blow's artworks add shots of colour to walls at The Soho and Ham Yard Hotels, and Tony Cragg's monumental sculptures feature at Haymarket and Ham Yard hotels.

At Ham Yard Hotel there was also input from a number of antipodean creatives, including a team from Woods Bagot architecture and Australian fabric artist Shilo Engelbrecht.

Kit's playfulness with mixing eras and styles, her mismatching of fabrics and colour, is seemingly done with abandon. But are there any rules? "It's all about balance and scale," she says. "If I use a large pattern, I'll choose something smaller beside it, then a plain. It's important to allow your fabric room to breathe." In Firmdale rooms, the bedlinen and bedspreads are white, allowing colour and pattern to flourish on oversized bedheads and drapes.

TOP / Kit in the Ham Yard Hotel's colourful Terrace Suite. BELOW / Kit's trademark fabric-covered mannequin appears in every guest room. Kit Kemp: Every Room Tells A Story (\$75, Hardie Grant) is out now.



#### **H&G INSIDER**

www.ara-anz.com



■ The finishing touch is a fabric-covered mannequin. "Corners can be dark and difficult to fill," says Kit. "If you have a sculpture in a corner, the eye moves around."

Kit's love of colour is instinctive. She says she would love to do a navy and white room, "but then suddenly red appears. If you love colour, it's impossible to stop it". Her own home, by contrast, is quite calm. "It's not high fashion. If you like something it should last."

Non-negotiables are natural textures such as wood, stone, linen and cotton. Windows are important too: "The first thing I want to do when I walk into a room is look out". Walls of books are favoured for their texture and leisure value, and she admits the kitchen is her favourite room to dress. "It's the heart, the place where you cook and where you eat."

Her plans for The Whitby lobby include a new direction in colour, achieved by incorporating muted darks into her usual palette of clear brights. "We're doing large abstract areas in dark grey with orange, then washed out mid-brown and a certain blue. We'll add a thin line through it to pull the colours together."

As a fellow colour-holic I'm enthralled, sure I'm being let into a heavily guarded secret. Watch this space!

H&G
See page 85 for the Top 50 Rooms winners and judges' comments.

www.firmdalehotels.com.





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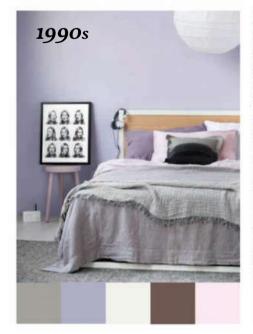




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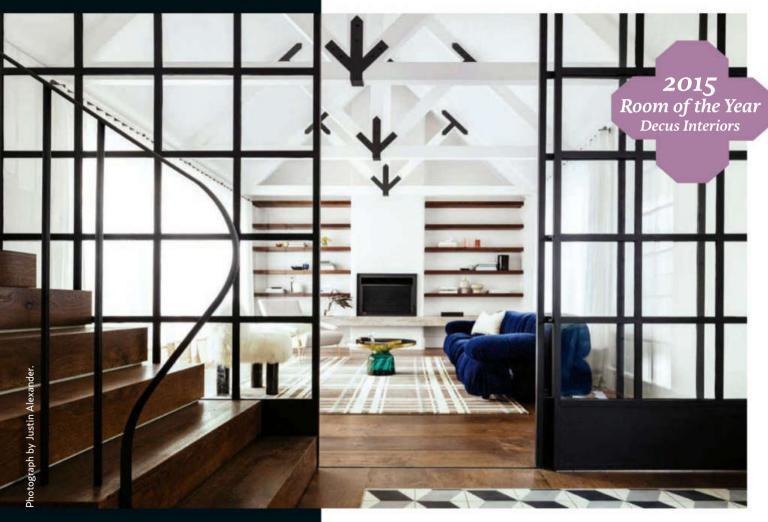




## Winners' circle

The results are in! We're delighted to announce our category winners and reveal H&G's Room of the Year.

his year's Top 50 Rooms ran from the bold to the beautiful, a line up that delivered great ideas and excitement in spades. Huge thanks to Kit Kemp (Firmdale hotels), Cameron Warwick (Warwick Fabrics), Suzie Attiwill (RMIT University), Melissa Penfold, Lucy Sutherland (International School of Colour & Design), Dana Tomic Hughes (Yellowtrace), who joined H&G's Lisa Green and Alaana Cobon at the judging table. Thanks also to our industry partners for your valuable insights ... And congrats to the designers, all.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY **WARWICK** 









"The strong architectural statements in this outstanding room are beautifully complemented by details and furnishings that delight and surprise. The result is refined yet relaxed. I want to light the fire and plonk myself on the plush sofa with a good book." Lisa Green



#### **BEST USE OF SOFT FURNISHINGS & BEST USE OF COLOUR**

Marylou Sobel Interior Design

#### Judges' comments

"Marylou's use of texture, wallpaper, wood and tribal influences was ambitious, yet she has managed to make a small room a definite feature." Cameron Warwick "The use of colour in this room really drew me in. The layering of what is essentially quite a bold palette has been cleverly tempered by a great use of neutrals, while the textures and layers - from the carpet to the sofa fabric - show a sophisticated understanding of materials. The room exudes warmth and instant comfort." Wendy Rennie, Haymes Paint





Dana Tomic Hughes



Judges' comments

"Less is more, and it's what makes this room (centre) work so beautifully. Natural and painted wood panels frame the most beautiful Australian country view." Kit Kemp

"The clean lines and simplicity of this room enhance the focal point. The beautiful vista beckons and encourages you to live in both environments." Francesco Novembre, Domo

**BEST USE OF MATERIALS** Williams Burton Leopardi

Judge's comment

"The materials create an interesting and inviting kitchen (left) that complements and embraces the outside feature of the handsome tree. The consideration of handle-less design and use of colours and textured materials and finishes combine to result in a beautiful space." Kylie Peterson, Blum Australia





**NSW** 

Brookvale

Northmead 6 Boundary Rd

Newcastle 61 Darby St **Crows Nest** 

Redfern 18 Danks St Narellan

10-18 Orchard Rd 113 Alexander St Unit 6-7, 8 Maxwell Pl

**Taren Point** 

12/120 Taren Point Rd

Fortitude Valley 209 Brunswick St

Indooroopilly U1, 272 Moggill Rd WA

Joondalup

Shop T3, 1 Sundew Rise

Osborne Park

U3, 22 King Edward Rd

O'Connor

U1, 2 Stockdale Rd







#### BEST KITCHEN MIM Design

#### Judge's comment

"Great use of materials.
The stone and wood surfaces work brilliantly together.
Integrated sinks and a quality feature tap demonstrate a great eye for when to hide something and when to make it pop.
The work triangle between appliances, cooktop and sink will mean that this kitchen is efficient and a delight to cook in."
David Woollcott,
Winning Appliances

### BEST USE OF LIGHTING Arc Seven 1

#### Judge's comment

"The clever and unexpected choice of lighting, in the form of the pendant cluster above the dining area, add a touch of glamour to this lush, botanical space."

Lucy Sutherland

#### BEST BATHROOM Mr Mitchell

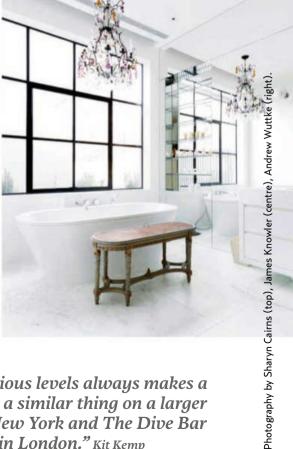
#### Judge's comment

"The relationship between the various glazed elements – windows, mirror, cabinet shelving, chandelier – create an atmosphere of delicacy and lightness. One imagines lying in the bath and experiencing all these elements reflecting on the surface of the water."

Suzie Attiwill

H&G





"A collection of lights at various levels always makes a bold statement. I have done a similar thing on a larger scale in the Crosby Bar in New York and The Dive Bar at Ham Yard Hotel in London." Kit Kemp H&G DOMO PROMOTION

# your exclusive invitation

Join H&G editor in chief Lisa Green at DOMO for an evening of home styling and a discussion of design insights from Australian House & Garden's 2015 Top 50 Rooms special.



#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

#### **BRISBANE**

Tuesday 20 October DOMO Bowen Hills 44 Abbotsford Road, Bowen Hills

#### **MELBOURNE**

Thursday 22 October DOMO Sandringham 256 Bay Road, Sandringham 5.30pm for a 6pm start 5.30pm for a 6pm start

#### REGISTER AT:

domo@bauer-media.com.au

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## TOP ← STYLE YOUR HOME

Australian House & Garden's Top 50 Rooms celebrates the many ways Australians express their personal style through furnishings, decor and interiors. Channelling your 'personal stylist' is something everyone should try, so join us at this special DOMO event.









RIGHT / Bethany's intricate original artworks.
BELOW / A colourful corner of the studio. OPPOSITE /
Bethany Linz in her
Sydney studio.

#### TEXTILE DESIGNER

#### **BETHANY LINZ**

As her pencil sweeps across the paper, Sydney textile designer and artist Bethany muses on the nature of her work. "Everything I do is by hand," she says. "I'm drawn to a world and a time when everything was done this way."

A former senior designer for textile company Mokum, Bethany now heads up her own venture, producing textile designs, artworks and wallpapers, and has collaborated with bespoke fabric-maker Sparkk, costume designer Catherine Martin and stylist Sibella Court. Her Great Shalimar wallpaper was recently showcased at an exhibition of interior trends at Maison&Objet in Paris.

Sketching is at the very heart of the creative process for Bethany. She researches her subject material exhaustively and then begins drawing, first loosely and quickly to bring her ideas to life. Then, after much refining, her final sketches are painstakingly painted with textural gouache paint.

A Steiner school education and a Diploma of Fine Arts from Newcastle Art School in NSW set Bethany on her course as an artist. Her collections feature intricate illustrations of birds and plants and delicate, perfectly executed patterns that replicate beautifully in wallpaper form." I like to work large, to a big scale, and on thick art paper," says Bethany. "Gouache is very forgiving, you can wash it off and redo it if you need to."

Once she's happy that her artwork is perfect, technology takes it to the next level. "Digital printing is so good now that it can capture every brushstroke, every layer of paint. The scanning and printing



'I ALWAYS LEAVE PENCIL MARKS ON MY FINISHED DESIGNS; THAT WAY YOU CAN INSTANTLY TELL IT'S BEEN DRAWN BY HAND.'

BETHANY

processes make my designs replicable and accessible, but I love that you can still see the original work. I always leave pencil marks on my finished designs; that way you can instantly tell it's been drawn by hand."

www.bethanylinz.com



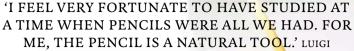


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#### H&G INSIDER





#### ARCHITECT

#### LUIGI ROSSELLI

"Sketches are my central method of communication," says Luigi. "I use them to persuade and engage my clients, but also to charm builders and local councils."

There's a magic to the architectural sketch that the computer will never be able to replicate, says the Sydney architect. He's been sketching almost daily for the past 30 years and his drawings have played a key role in the construction of some of Australia's most admired residential and public buildings, including Parliament House in Canberra.

The wizardry of a sketch comes from the fact it can reveal so much about a design without giving it all away, he says. "When a client sees a rendering of a design they assume it's exactly as it will appear when it's finished, and that can be quite limiting. There is liberty in a sketch."

For Luigi, the design process can only begin when he's ready to draw. It's his drawings that determine the character and style of a building, as well as its



proportions and scale. The drawings are considered and reworked until they are just so, then Luigi's design team interprets his lines and turns them into angles and elevations, inputting the precise measurements that are required to construct a home.

Yellowtrace is Luigi's preferred sketching paper. He puts his ideas down on plain white paper first, then transfers them to yellowtrace using a black pen. Next he draws an outline of his structure and uses coloured pencils to create shading and a sense of the environment around the house. To represent lighter areas of a building Luigi reaches for something a little unusual: correction

fluid. "A pencil doesn't give me a strong enough white so I use Tippex," he says.

Luigi's three decades of architectural drawings are celebrated in a beautiful book, *Perspectives*, released earlier this year. It was accompanied by an exhibition of his work, the star feature being an installation that consisted of an enormous archway pasted with copies of hundreds of his drawings.

"I feel very fortunate to have studied at a time when pencils were all we had," says Luigi. "For me, the pencil is a natural tool. It takes a 3D specialist on my staff three days to work up a perspective; I can do it in three hours."

www.luigirosselli.com

#### **H&G** INSIDER

RIGHT / Sonia Simpfendorfer in her office. BELOW / Sonia uses coloured pencils to make notes on floor plans.

#### INTERIOR DESIGNER

#### SONIA SIMPFENDORFER

Rolls of yellowtrace paper sit at the ready in the Melbourne offices of Nexus Designs, alongside more portable sketchbooks. Creative director Sonia says she does her best thinking with a pencil in her hand. "If I am working on, say, how joinery might look in a kitchen, I have to draw it. Even the most rudimentary drawings will kickstart the creative process for me."

Sketching makes so much sense to Sonia that she strongly encourages the whole team at Nexus, a multi-disciplinary design firm, to put their ideas down on paper first. "This can be challenging for some CAD-trained staff who worry their drawings aren't perfect," Sonia says. "But sketching is all about capturing a thought or quickly resolving a design problem."

Where sketches prove most useful is in client presentations, says Sonia. "People are always excited to see ideas represented this way. Sketches are great for showing three–dimensional form, for explaining in a simple way elements such as how the ceiling height relates to the joinery dimensions or the scale of the window."

Even when clients are shown CAD drawings of their projects, Sonia will sketch in details, add hand-written notes and colour in the floor plans. "It makes for a much more engaging image," she says. A sketch allows an idea to be conveyed, without being constricted. A computer drawing can look too complete and clients worry they can't make changes; a sketch always has creative licence built in."



'SKETCHING IS ALL ABOUT CAPTURING A THOUGHT OR QUICKLY RESOLVING A DESIGN PROBLEM ... WHEN YOU DRAW IT, YOU THINK IT.' SONIA

Sonia likes to do quick drawings of things that capture her attention. "I could just take a screenshot or a photo but sketching it makes you think about what the components are, what you like about its look or proportions. When you draw it, you think it." **H&G** www.nexusdesigns.com.au



Photography by Martina Gemmola.



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#### 100 VICTORIA

Behind this home's 1920s facade a modern extension ekes out every inch of space.

#### 108 VICTORIA

A rear addition to this Melbourne villa is glazed to perfection - drawing the backyard greenery in.

#### 116 NSW

Seeing past their property's shortcomings, this family undertook a mid-century-inspired renovation.

#### 124 QUEENSLAND

Thoughtfully reconfigured for modern living, this historical Queenslander is all set for a new era.

#### 132 VICTORIA

The best of the '80s lives on in this smartly executed Melbourne home.









# HOUSES

**RENOVATION SPECIAL** 







aving lived in Dubai, Perth and Adelaide, Kate and Kris Symons were old hands at packing up and relocating. But when they moved to Melbourne four years ago, their priorities had shifted. With son Will (now seven) nearing school age and a new baby (Tom, four), they were thinking in terms of child-friendly living and long-term stability. "We thought, if we're going to move here, let's really put down roots," says Kate.

While renting in an inner suburb, they spotted a property that piqued their interest, a single-fronted 1920s weatherboard cottage. "It was apricot-coloured and just about falling down, but I could see the potential," says Kate. Less astute buyers were also put off by the modest 290m² block. Having grown up in Adelaide, where features such as wine cellars and playrooms are commonplace, the couple knew the property would need tweaking to suit their lifestyle, but were up for the challenge. "The trick was to use every square inch," says Kate.

In a fortunate coincidence, the interior designer who had worked on the Symons' Adelaide home, Mikayla Rose, moved to Melbourne just three months after the family. She and Kate had struck up a great working relationship on that project and resumed it for this more ambitious project. "The family was looking to create a home that met their needs and reflected their relaxed style of living," says Mikayla. "Kate wanted to retain the charm of the original cottage, with a contemporary extension and upstairs addition."

"There was a lot of burning the midnight oil," says Kate. "I would often head over to Mikayla's house on weeknights when our children

'In the end something simple, like a pared-back palette, doesn't date.' Kate Symons

KITCHEN/DINING / The kitchen's splashback is a single piece of Statuarietto marble that weighed 300kg. "It was nerveracking to watch eight men bring the slab in and put it up," says Kate. Stools, Cult. Table, Jardan. Chairs, Surrounding. Oak pendant light, Ross Gardam. Dinnerware and marble board, Country Road. Bowl, Mud Australia. LIVING / A Belynda Henry artwork called On That Day II ties the interior together beautifully. Sofas, Plush. Ottoman, Jardan. Coffee table, Stylecraft. Rug, Armadillo&Co. Designer buy: Ross Gardam Tailored coffee table, \$3389, Stylecraft. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.



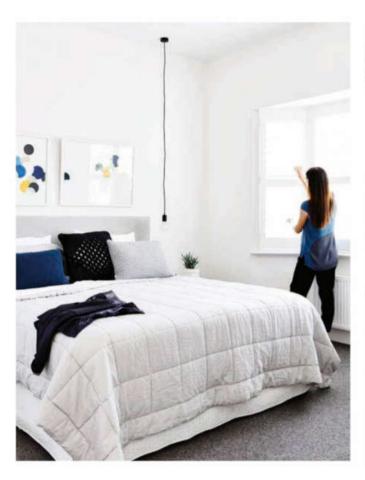


**HALLWAY** / Behind the sliding door is a clever storage area. The door and shelving are clad in the same oak veneer as the floor, but the surface, with moveable dowels and shelves, is painted practical black. Hanging planter, Lovehate. **STUDY** / A Woven Image EchoPanel makes a handy pinboard. In this dual-purpose room Kate created space for 400 wine bottles with floor-toceiling Bordex racks. Artwork by Rachel Castle. **BOOKSHELF** / This oak-veneer shelf runs above the entertainment unit in the living area. Crochet bowl, The Minimalist. Small resin bowl, Dinosaur Designs. Artwork by Kirstin Berg. TOM'S ROOM / An Ikea bed and antique cane chair are the perfect proportions for little Tom. Pillowcase, Rachel Castle. Cushion, The SuperCool. Chicky print, Kyrie Kohlhagen. Designer buy: Click birch-ply stool (bedside table) in White, \$185, Power to Make. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.











■ were in bed. I'd get out the samples I'd collected and she would do
the CAD drawings – sometimes we'd be nutting out designs at 1am."
When the concept was clear, the rear of the house was demolished and
replaced with a new extension. A second storey was added and the front
rooms were reconfigured. "It's basically a new house from the front door
back," says Kate. Builder Ben Thomas did a sterling job in just 26 weeks.

Now a fresh white, the charming facade blends respectfully into the period streetscape, while the charcoal-stained form of the upper storey is a clue to the dynamic contrast of old and new inside. Downstairs, there's the bay-windowed main bedroom suite, a study, powder room and laundry, with a generous kitchen, living and dining area connecting to the deck. The core of the home is illuminated by a light well on the western side. Upstairs are the boys' rooms, a guestroom and bathroom.

With the extension and new level, plus an external wall pushed back to the boundary on one side, the house has been expanded in all directions, with space-savvy design tricks – such as a concealed desk and storage area in the living room – packing in even more.

After such a fruitful partnership, it comes as little surprise to learn that Kate is now working with Mikayla in her design practice, Heartly. And day after day, the house they created together works brilliantly for Kate and her family. "It works because everything has its place," she says. "Hopefully, this is our landing spot for a long time." H&G Heartly, Hawthorn, Victoria; 0402 304 573 or heartly.com.au. Ben Thomas, Northcote, Victoria; benthomasbuilder.com.au. Mud Office Landscape Design, Clifton Hill, Victoria; mudoffice.com.au.

#### FEATURE PLANTS

FRONT GARDEN
Pyrus calleryana
'Chanticleer'
Gleditsia triacanthos
'Sunburst'
Betula pendula
'Moss White'
Lambs' ears
BACK GARDEN
Golden robinia
Ginkgo biloba

MAIN BEDROOM / Kate made the bedhead from MDF and covered it in Kvadrat grey felt. Bemboka quilt, Southwood Home. Black cushion, Country Road. Art, Rachel Castle. BATHROOM / Simplicity rules with a wall-hung Catalano basin from Rogerseller and custom oak shelf. The washable paper bag from Uashmama contains a maidenhair fern. Smart buy: Est soap ball, \$9, The Lab Organics. FACADE / The period facade was retained and painted Dulux Colorbond Surfmist. Concrete planter, On the Side. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.





RENO SPECIAL 1890s villa





uilt in 1897, this elegant villa in leafy inner Melbourne has loads of charm. When Katie and Mark Davies bought the 380m² four-bedroom house in 2010, the front section still retained its turn-of-the-century character. The interior, however, had been renovated in the 1980s. Despite this, the internal spaces felt cramped and very much outdated.

The couple asked Geoff Challis, principal at Venn Architects, to design a larger open-plan living area for the rear and create more bedroom space on a new first floor. "We were after a family home that we could grow into," says Katie, with daughters Jessica, four, Zoe, two, and one-year-old Heidi in mind. "We wanted to maintain the beautiful ceiling height throughout and have loads of natural light. We also wanted the front of the house, which was a bit tired, to be improved in keeping with the history and style of the original home. The back addition was to be ultra-modern, with timeless and understated finishes."

In line with the brief, the original front rooms and central hallway were retained and updated. A portion of an adjoining room was used to add an ensuite and a walk-in wardrobe to the main bedroom. A guestroom with ensuite was created opposite. Further along is a study and sitting room with a small courtyard. The hall then opens up to a roomy new kitchen, dining and living zone with a wall of dark-framed doors and windows that take in the large garden and new pool. The high ceiling in the hallway continues into the kitchen and dining

'We wanted to maintain the beautiful ceiling height throughout and have loads of natural light.'

**Katie Davies** 

LIVING / Katie and Jessica in the home's sunniest spot, with views of the garden on three sides. Nook sofa and side table, Jardan. Cushions, Spacecraft. Armchair, Great Dane. Coffee table, Zuster. Rug, Halcyon Lake. Pendant light, Tongue+Groove. Artwork, Dream State by Erin Flannery.

DINING / In the centre of the room, the recycled-timber dining table can seat up to 10 people. Table, Charles Scott. Billiani Doll chairs, Hub Furniture Lighting Living.

Designer buy: Spinning Light BH2 pendant light, \$675, Great Dane. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.







'The timber feature wall is a backdrop for the cantilevered staircase, which seems to float in the space.' Geoff Challis, architect





◀ area and soars to double height in the living zone. "This area is the centrepiece of the house," says Geoff. "It's stunning in scale but relaxed in style." On the eastern side, a timber feature wall acts as a backdrop for a cantilevered staircase, which appears to float in the space. "It's designed to be as seamless and lightweight as possible," he says. Upstairs are three bedrooms, a bathroom and play area.

Now 580m², the house has a clean, contemporary aesthetic throughout, says Geoff. "The natural, neutral tones complement its heritage, its original brickwork and surrounding greenery." White smoked-oak lining boards on the walls, chocolate-coloured oak floorboards in the front section and black and white joinery create a high-contrast palette that serves to highlight the contemporary furniture.

In the new section, the flooring is a dark-tinted polished concrete, softened with rugs. Venn Architects also assisted in selecting new furniture throughout the home. "I'd spent many years living overseas so I hadn't accumulated much and Mark sold all his stuff on eBay!" says Katie. "However, the house is still very much – and probably always will be – a work in progress."

Venn Architects, South Melbourne, Victoria; (03) 9682 4222 or www.vennarchitects.com. Eckersley Garden Architecture, Burnley, Victoria; (03) 9421 5537 or www.e-ga.com.au.

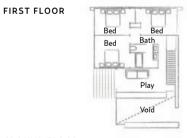


#### FEATURE PLANTS

BACK GARDEN
Lilly pilly
(Syzygium australe
'Hinterland Gold')
Sacred bamboo
(Nandina domestica)
Paroo lily (Dianella
caerulea 'Lucia')
Acer palmatum
'Dissectum Seiryu'
Boston ivy

FACADE / Fortunately, the original tiles and stained glass were intact when the couple bought the property. Fresh paint on the trims smarten the red brickwork. ZOE'S BEDROOM / Designed by Little Liberty, most of this room's accessories are from Talo Interiors. Cot, Kiddie Country. GARDEN / Bathed in all-day sun, the north-facing pool is bordered by timber decking and stepping stones in honed bluestone from Granite Works. H&G FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

#### THE LAYOUT





#### GROUND FLOOR









### RENO SPECIAL Federation cottage

REAR ELEVATION / Sliding doors open up this airy open-plan extension to the garden on two sides. A change of flooring, from engineered oak to unfinished merbau, demarcates the indoor and outside living spaces. Dining table and chairs, Anibou. Thonet bentwood chair. Indoor flooring, Havwoods. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.





## This is the life

"We lived in the unrenovated house for eight months and had people over three times; it just wasn't a place that was easy to entertain in," says Louisa. Now their home is the centre of a whirl of dinner parties, barbecues and impromptu pool parties with the children next door, who drop in by means of a ladder over the back fence. "It's perfect in good weather and we've had some fun lunches in pouring rain, too."

ngus Harris fell for this circa-1940 Federation cottage on Sydney's Lower North Shore at first sight. However, his wife, Louisa, took a little more convincing. "It was poky and dark, and what's more, the layout was all wrong," she says. "The bedrooms were downstairs and the kitchen and living spaces upstairs."

Angus, the co-owner of Harris Farm Markets, didn't give up, pointing out the potential of the 702m² block and what they could achieve with the help of an architect. Its location, on a quiet street not far from a harbour beach and with easy access to the city, worked in his favour. Between the first inspection and the auction day, Louisa was won over. And today, after a thorough reinvention, the couple and their sons Hunter, five, and Theo, three, are enjoying the home of their dreams.

Louisa and Angus appointed multi-disciplinary design firm Alexander&Co to oversee the makeover, inside and out. For architect Jeremy Bull, director of the firm, the biggest challenge was ensuring a sympathetic relationship between the new work and the existing cottage.

"The brief was to create a beautiful, light-filled and functional family home that would engage with the garden," says Jeremy. "We were asked to relocate the sleeping areas upstairs and the entrance to the lower level, effectively turning the entire house upside down."

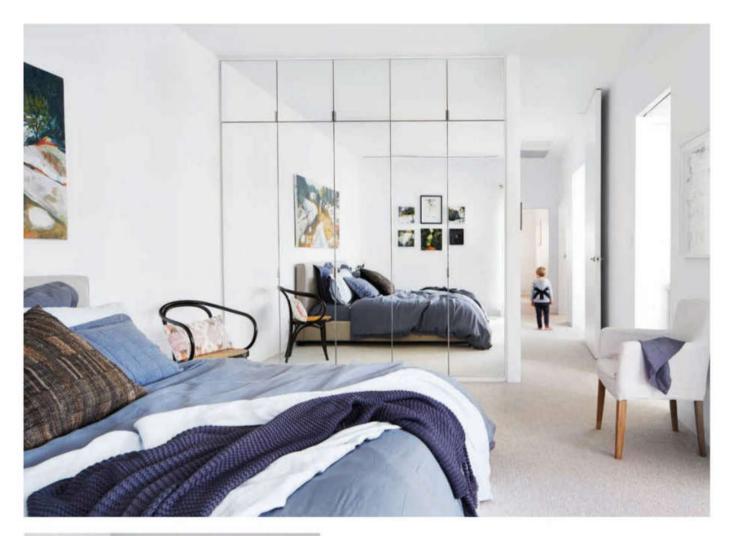
The eight-month project, carried out in 2014, saw 40m<sup>2</sup> added to the floor plan. The ground floor now contains a vast living, kitchen and dining area, casual family living space, guestroom and laundry/bathroom, plus a suntrapping deck on the northern side, while upstairs are three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a study. "The kitchen and family room connect to both the deck and garden," says Jeremy. "When the sliding doors are in their most open position, the kitchen and living area open directly onto the lawn," says Jeremy.

The effect is that the interior appears to have no boundaries, a quality that Louisa loves. "There's no











'We love to entertain. We have big dinners on a long table outside, lots of barbecues and pool parties.' Louisa

main bedroom / Mirrored joinery and lofty 2.85m ceilings magnify the impression of space. Bed, Domayne. Abbotson bedlinen, Sheridan. Brown cushion, Pond. Bentwood chair, Thonet. Artworks by Ingrid Hawke.

Smart buy: Chunky Tassel throw, \$70, Bed Bath N' Table.

BATHROOM / Bathers are soothed by the calming grey and white scheme. Soap dispensers, Muji. Wall tiles,

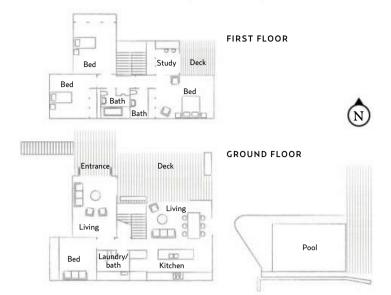
Calibre Concepts. For similar towel, try Table Tonic.

LIVING / Like the house itself, this sophisticated space is a successful fusion of old and new. Vintage sofa. Coffee table,

Coco Republic. Heatmaster fireplace, Abbey Fireplaces. Grey cushion, Bed Bath N' Table. Vases (on mantelpiece and table),

Papaya. White pot (on mantelpiece), Freedom. Photograph by Leila Jeffreys. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

#### THE LAYOUT



■ post holding up the corner of the house, so when it's all open, the space is huge and seamless," she says.

Every aspect, from fittings to landscaping, demonstrates a fruitful relationship between design firm and homeowners. "We were directly involved in every aspect, but the Alexander&Co team were definitely in charge!" says Louisa. "We chose a lot of interior finishes but were led by them on the big decisions. And it was great to be able to call them for help with the little decisions, too."

The design team has given them a layout that works with their lifestyle and circumstances. The kitchen and living spaces are sited alongside the garden so the couple can keep an eye on their children while relaxing, cooking or playing hosts. "We love to entertain," says Louisa. "We have big dinners with a long table outside, lots of barbecues and pool parties."

"If you ask Angus what his favourite part of the house is, he would probably say the pool, or perhaps the cellar. If you ask the kids, of course it's the pool and the cubby and their room, which has all their toys in it. For me, it's having a beautiful home to style and fill with beautiful things that will change as we grow."

Alexander&Co, Redfern, NSW; (02) 8394 9838 or alexanderand.co.

BOYS' ROOM / Hunter and Theo sleep in Ikea bunk beds connected by strings of jaunty bunting. Quilt covers, Kip & Co. Prints, Society6. Samba carpet, Passo Flooring.

CUBBYHOUSE / The frame for this recycled-hardwood structure was put up by the builder and was completed as a weekend family project, with the help of Louisa's brother.

Vintage Chinese stool. For similar planter, try Garden Life.

REAR COURTYARD / Hunter (far left) joins the rest of the family for fun in the sun. Table, Coco Republic. Gervasoni armchair and white ceramic seat, Anibou. Sofa, La Maison. Lanterns, Papaya. Pitcher, Marimekko. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.





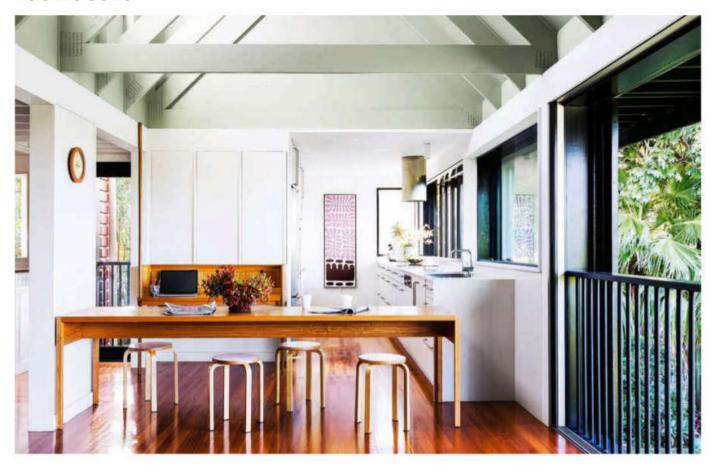




In seeking to maximise the potential of this 1880s Queenslander, a Brisbane architect took 'indoor-outdoor' to a whole new level.

STORY RACHAEL BERNSTONE / STYLING KATE NIXON / PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER





hen veterinarians Jason Beck and Anna Deykin and their sons Alexander, now 13, and Matthew, 10, moved from inner-city Sydney to Brisbane in 2004, they quickly settled in the beachside suburb of Sandgate, attracted by its holiday atmosphere and the character of the town's heritage buildings.

Jason particularly admired a majestic 1880s Queenslander in the main street, one of a handful that had survived mostly intact. "I used to drive or walk past this house every day," he says. "It came up for sale in 2011 and, fortuitously, we were in a position to buy it."

While Jason and Anna admired the home's grand proportions, the layout needed some reconfiguring. "We needed better flow to the living areas, and because it has such fantastic views, we wanted to open it up to the sky and sea breezes," says Jason.

The couple engaged architect Stuart Vokes for the project, who proposed a long, narrow addition to run parallel to the back of the house. Enclosed by fully retractable panels of glass and insect screens and protected from the elements by a deep awning, it would accommodate a new kitchen at one end, a main bedroom at the other, and a flexible living area in between. It would also have a balustrade installed on the inside of the glass to reinforce the sense of being on a verandah.

"Lots of people want to add a deck to take advantage of views, but between the heat and the insects and the storms we have in the subtropics, an open deck just isn't habitable," says Stuart. "My plan was to make the interior feel like an enclosed 'sleep-out', which offers all the benefits of a verandah, but can be closed down at night, in winter, or when storms blow in." 'We wanted a creative design that made the most of the site.' Jason Beck

KITCHEN/MEALS / Large windows and a lush garden enhance the verandah effect. Table by Vokes and Peters. Replica Aalto stools, Matt Blatt. Quarella benchtops in Blanco Paloma, Architectural Ceramics Slate & Stone. Cabinetry, Laminex. Rangehood, Smeg. Artwork by Mitjuli Napparula. SITTING/DINING / The fireplace is the dominant feature in the dining room, which was formerly the kitchen. The bentwood chairs are long-held family pieces. Pendant light, Light and Design Group. Foliage from Phoebe Stephens Flowers.

Smart buy: Banquette cushion covered in Mokum Mimosa, from \$137/m, James Dunlop Textiles. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.



Projects like this always take longer and cost more than you think, but for us, the journey was worth it.' Jason

SITTING / Alexander relaxes in the bright and airy sitting room, which opens onto a north-facing verandah. The original ogee roof profile remains. The banquette, made from Laminex DesignaPly, has drawers beneath it. Cushions and throw, Kova Lifestyle. Painting by Lorna Fencer.

LIVING / The extension reinstates the idea of the back verandah, which previous owners had enclosed. Sofa and armchair, Dare Gallery. Rug, Spotlight. Artwork by Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri.

Smart buy: Toto coffee table, \$79, Fantastic Furniture.

MUSEUM ROOM / The library-style shelves, designed by

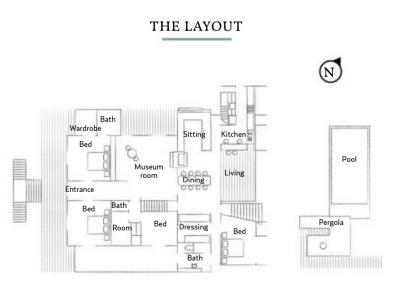
Stuart Vokes and made by Desks Etc, contain all manner of
books and antiques that the family has collected over the
years. Vintage table and bentwood chairs, all eBay finds.

Foliage from Phoebe Stephens Flowers. Painting by G Dwyer.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.







Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.







◀ Jason admits that while they gave Stuart an open brief, it took some time to fully understand the plan. But they couldn't be happier with the result. "Previously, there was no living space that connected with the garden. Now, in that open room with the sliding doors pulled back, we feel like we are practically in the backyard," he says. "Anna and I can supervise the boys in the pool while we are sitting in the living room or working in the kitchen."

The addition also incorporates two staircases, leading to different outdoor experiences. The first, partially concealed behind a living room wall, leads down to the garden, a new pool and an outdoor-entertaining area that is used year-round. The second, behind the kitchen, provides access to a small rooftop deck. "It's like an observation deck," says Jason. "We like to go up there to watch the sunrise, or to watch the goings-on in the street in the afternoon."

In contrast to these bright and sunlit outdoor spaces, the 'museum' room at the centre of the old house is a cool and quiet retreat. Jason confesses to being the family's chief bowerbird, but says they all enjoy collecting objects and curios. The family gathers at the round table in this book-lined room to look at photos, examine their latest discoveries, reflect on holidays past and plan future adventures.

Having updated a local landmark without sacrificing any of its heritage appeal, this family has no intention of leaving. "It's a fantastic home and one that works really well for us," says Jason.

Vokes and Peters, South Brisbane, Queensland; (07) 3846 2044 or vokesandpeters.com.

#### FEATURE PLANTS

BACKYARD
Star jasmine
(Trachelospermum
jasminoides)
Alyssum
Philodendron
'Xanadu'
Lots a' Lemons
lemon tree

BATHROOM / A thoughtful layout means there's plenty of room to manoeuvre in the compact bathroom. Vola basin mixer, Candana Bathroomware. Duravit Vero basin, Christiaan's. Wall and floor tiles, Metro Tiles. MAIN BEDROOM / High ceilings in the new addition reference the home's heritage. Vintage bedside table and Anglepoise lamp. Cushions and throw, Kova Lifestyle. Photograph by anonymous artist. **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING / Owners** Anna and Jason with Matthew (left) and Alexander. The neighbour's bougainvillea shades the pergola, a stop-gap until the couple's wisteria grows. Smart buy: Angelina fire pit, \$1100, Robert Plumb. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.





# ART OF GLASS

By embracing and building upon select aspects of its '80s origins, this home makeover transformed an average Joe into a class act.

STORY CHRIS PEARSON / STYLING DOHERTY DESIGN STUDIO
PHOTOGRAPHY TOM BLACHFORD







onjuring generous floor space without adding to a home's footprint is perhaps the ultimate interiors magic trick. And that's just what interior designer Mardi Doherty achieved in this 1980s three-bedroom home in Melbourne's inner east.

Having bought the two-storey house in 2002, Felicity and Michael Gould lived in it as a share house during their university years. "It was a great student house, in a great location with lots of light," says Felicity. But on graduating to life as a family home, its faults became apparent and by 2013, the house felt as though it was bursting at the seams.

"It had likely been built for a couple with no children," says Felicity. "The main bedroom was enormous, with a massive walk-in wardrobe and ensuite, but the other two bedrooms and family bathroom were tiny." Downstairs, the open-plan kitchen/dining/living room struggled to accommodate the couple and their two children Archie, now six, and Annabel, three.

"The house had fantastic bones but the layout wasn't so good," says Mardi. "The first step was to rejig it to make it perform better." She wanted to retain the best aspects of the 1980s design: the glass-brick windows on the street facade, the steel balustrades on the stairs and the steel-framed glass panels in the entry. But the angled walls, typical of the era, were not space-efficient and had to go.

Downstairs, a powder room to the left of the front door was removed, creating space to extend the compact kitchen and living/dining room. Mardi also shifted the laundry, which intruded into the living area, into unused space under the stairs. Upstairs, the main ensuite





'We didn't want to change things unnecessarily.' Felicity Gould

FORMAL LIVING / left and below The glam tinted-glass and brass Bell coffee tables from Anibou are in keeping with the '80s aesthetic. Letizia chairs, Cult. Old Yarn Pom Pom rug, Loom Rugs. Hearth tiles, Signorino Tile Gallery. Curtain in Warwick Fabrics Chios. Artworks by Joanna Wisniewska-Domanska (left) and Chris Warnes (on mantel). Designer buy: Inax Aspect Linear corner tiles (on fire surround), \$150/m, Artedomus. MAIN BEDROOM / Mardi designed an eye-catching striped carpet using Tretford Cord goat-hair carpet in Peacock, Night Sky, Silver Birch and Double Cream. Nordic pelt rug, Abode Living. Rocking chair, Living Edge. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

◆ became the family bathroom and a new ensuite created in place of the "overly generous" walk-in wardrobe. Meanwhile, the 'family' bathroom was given over to the second bedroom, making it twice as large.

The home's aesthetic could be summed up as Scandinavian meets classic '80s. Using a neutral palette, Mardi played up the original features, opting for a bold striped carpet in the upstairs landing. "We loved the geometry of the original home – all of the angled walls and so on – and we wanted to reference this through the new design," she says. To this end, arrow-like handles adorn the built-in joinery throughout and 'barcode' tiles on the fireplace surround add pizazz to the formal living room. "The tiles work so well with the glass-brick windows," says Mardi.

Built-in cabinetry throughout – under the banquette in the dining area, in the formal living room and all the bedrooms – adds to the sense of airiness. "There's oodles of storage," says Felicity. "Everything can be neatly tucked away at the end of the day."

Perhaps not surprisingly for a keen cook, Felicity's favourite space is her roomy kitchen, with its garden outlook and smart green tiles contrasting with the commodious cabinetry. "It feels like it's much larger than it is," she says.

Doherty Design Studio, Hawthorn, Victoria; (03) 9815 2737 or dohertydesignstudio.com.au.





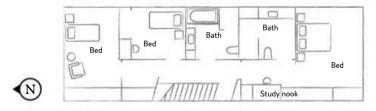


# 'The house isn't that big but now it feels very spacious.' Felicity

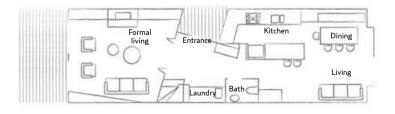
MAIN BATHROOM / The striking vanity fronts, in Laminex Hydra Mesh, and grey floor tiles tie in with the colours of the carpet outside. Tapware, Rogerseller. Basin, Fowler. Wall tiles, Academy Tiles. Floor tiles, Beyond Tiles. MAIN BEDROOM / 'See-through' furniture, such as the Hay side table from The Minimalist, helps a small room feel larger. Nook bed, Jardan. Mirror on stand, Douglas and Bec. Wall light, ECC Lighting+Furniture. Cushion, Living Edge. Artworks by Chris Pennings. **ENTRY** / The original balustrade was retained, its geometric design informing the whole decorating scheme. Smart buy: Hello doormat, \$89, Scout House. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

#### THE LAYOUT

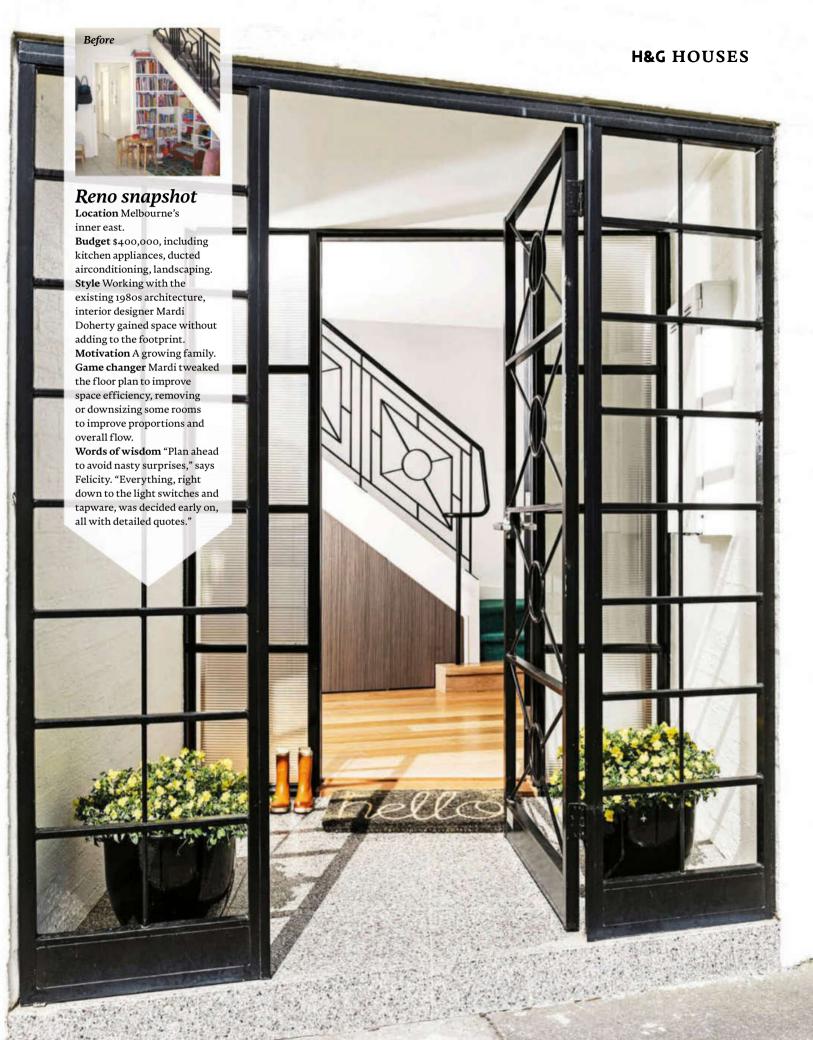




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# **GARDENS**



# H&G GARDENING A climbing rose frames the view of the magnificent 20m-long pergola, which serves as a partition between the oval and square lawn 'rooms'. Draped with wisteria and hedged with Escallonia ivevi, the pergola is a stunning sight when the wisteria is in flower. GAME OF ZONES A stately Ballarat garden is reimagined for the 21st century, with a pergola replacing a tennis court and distinct 'rooms' finding favour over grand expanses. STORY CHRISTINE REID / PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON GRIFFITHS AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN / 143

#### **H&G** GARDENING



niting a house and its garden in a harmonious composition is at the heart of all good landscape schemes, says Melbourne designer Lachie Anderson. It was the underlying aim of his reworking of this garden in the historical goldfields city of Ballarat, 100km northwest of Melbourne.

Central to this particular composition is a stately, two-storey home built in 1926. A distinctive residence with a colonnaded facade, it is a graceful presence on one of the city's main thoroughfares. In keeping with the grand homes of its era, it was originally surrounded by a tennis court, formal rose garden, shrubberies and hedges.

"The site is comprised of two blocks of land,  $2000m^2$  in total, with one block being the old grass tennis court and the other the house block," says Lachie, who was enlisted by owners Sue Robins and Barry Packham to reconfigure the garden.

A key focus for Sue and Barry was the desire to convert the tennis court into a garden. The challenge, says Lachie, was to transform the vast compacted lawn into a space that contained interest and a sense of discovery. The couple also wanted the front garden, which had many original plants, including a hawthorn hedge and rose bushes, to be retained and revitalised. "There was a good-sized oak tree and a lovely quince, both of which we kept," says Lachie. "The front garden had beautiful bones but was a bit tired. It needed some structure and love."

Central to Sue's brief was the request for a pergola. "I'd seen a lovely pergola in a rural garden on the NSW South Coast and I wanted to replicate it," she says. This was the element Lachie was looking for in order to break up the large space. He designed a 20m-long stringybark pergola that extends off a portico at the

# PERGOLA POINTERS

A popular feature in Italian gardens for generations, the pergola provides a tunnel framework for climbing plants. It was a favourite device of Arts and Crafts garden designers in 19thcentury England, and promoted by style setters of the time such as architect Edwin Lutyens. In Australia, landscape designer Edna Walling used pergolas in her garden designs as a way of introducing a shady scented walk.



#### **H&G** GARDENING



◆ home's side entrance on the eastern side
of the section. Stretching across the former
tennis court, the pergola terminates at a
raised pond. "It bisects the garden, creating
an axis with the house," says Lachie. "Once
we had it in place, we could design the
rest of the garden around it. We created
two lawns either side of it – one a square,
one an oval – which, in addition to the
formal front lawn, means there are now
three distinct garden rooms."

Around the new lawns are garden beds containing plants that complement those in the original sections of the garden such as hellebore, anemones, Solomon's seal, hydrangea and angelica. Lachie also added plants for texture, shape and colour, including *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Sarabande', *Pennisetum advena* 'Rubrum', *Penstemon* 'Willy's Purple' and *Buxus* balls.

The pergola pays homage to traditional garden structures but with chunky 25cm

square posts, it has been reworked for a modern garden. Wisteria climbs over the structure; planted between the posts are hedges of *Escallonia iveyi*, a shrub with dark green, shiny leaves and white flowers.

The hawthorn hedge along the street frontage was revitalised with a pruning, as were the oak and quince. "We also reshaped the rose garden at the centre of the front lawn to a formal circle and surrounded it with English box," says Lachie.

For Sue, the reconfigured garden provides the best of both worlds. She likes the new flow, but also loves spending time with her familiar plants. "Although Lachie likes grand formal designs, he allowed me my little cottage areas where I can potter about weeding, planting perennials or finding a spot for yet another rose!"

Lachie Anderson Garden Design, Kooyong, Victoria; (03) 9822 9970 or www.lachieanderson.com.

### OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT /

Euphorbia, silver lambs' ears and the pink flowers of Sedum 'Autumn Joy' bring a melange of texture to the bordering beds; foxgloves, Nandina domestica 'Moonbay', Agastache 'Sweet Lili', Clivia miniata also make up these beds. A brightly coloured fuchsia is one of many old-fashioned plants in the garden. Azaleas, hellebores and bulbs surround the beloved oak. The wisteria-draped pergola is surrounded by Rosa 'Gertrude Jekyll' and liliums.



IN THE GARDEN

# NEW-GENERATION AGAPANTHUS



Never underestimate agapanthus. Not only are they waterwise and resilient, they are now available in exciting new varieties that turn this old-fashioned favourite into a fab fashion statement, writes **Helen Young**.

nce the mainstay of many gardens, agapanthus have endured a perception problem in recent years, shunned for their perceived weediness and for being a bit, well... ordinary. However plant breeders have been hard at work reinventing the good old aggie in ways that might surprise you.

but names stick. They've always been much valued for their lush foliage, which belies their tough and drought-tolerant performance. And, with very little care, they would, of course, happily multiply each year, developing into large clumps that covered banks or thickly lined a long country driveway. Overgrown clumps would be split and shared around by even the blackest of thumbs, and many a clump carried on without ever receiving fertiliser.



Agapanthus also spread from seeds that follow the tall flower spikes and it's this ability to grow rather easily that led to a reputation for weediness. In fairness, the seeds rarely spread far as they are large and heavy, and most patches invading bushland came about from dumping of garden refuse. Still, weediness potential must be taken seriously.

The push to breed new varieties that are sterile, so they can't spread from seeds, is developing hand-in-hand with other desirable qualities such as new flower colours, variegated leaves, and a compact size suitable for smaller gardens, as well as larger flower heads. These new types are still tough, waterwise and easy to grow, so now we're spoiled for choice.

#### Agapanthus 'Queen Mum'

Extra-large bi-coloured flowers in white tinged with blue at their bases. These showstoppers can reach up to 1.5m high from lush plants 1m tall.

#### Agapanthus 'Black Pantha'

The purple blooms of this large variety are so dark that the buds appear almost black. Teamed with its slightly grey-green leaves, it's a combination that stands out in the garden. The foliage is about 1m high and the flowers and stems up to 1.8m. 'Black Magic' is similar but with glossy green leaves. 'Purple Cloud' is of a similar size but with deep-violet blooms.

#### Agapanthus 'Back in Black'

The stunning feature of this variety of agapanthus is its jet-black flower stems, which contrast against bright green foliage. They emerge green and darken as they mature, topped with clusters of dark purple flowers. Foliage grows to about 70cm high.



#### Agapanthus 'Snow Storm'

This semi-dwarf variety about 30cm high is one of the most prolific-flowering of all. A five-year-old plant can produce dozens of white flower stems, which are large compared to the foliage. Each flower head carries up to 30 individual flowers. 'Snowball' is similar. 'Blue Storm' has mauve-blue blooms.

#### Agapanthus 'Tinkerbell'

Foliage colour is the attraction of this variegated dwarf variety, reaching 20cm high with striped green and white leaves. It produces blue flowers but less profusely.

#### Agapanthus 'Strawberry Ice'

This pretty variety produces densely clustered flowers that are white with a blush of pink through each bell. Grows to a height of 80cm. 'Strawberry Ice Pink' is even rosier in hue.

#### Dwarf agapanthus

The petite leaves on the dwarf variety 'Babe Pete' reach just 20cm, with the blue flowers 35cm high. A similar variety, 'Little Boy Blue' has lavender blue flowers. 'Peter Pan' reaches 15cm with mid-blue flowers. 'Agapetite' grows to 20cm with white double blooms. 'Silver Baby' is a similar size with bi-colour flowers that are white, tinged with pale blue on the outer petals. **H&G** 



Agapanthus 'Black Pantha

While they survive well on their own, you'll get the best from your agapanthus by observing these tips: Give them an open, sunny position. Apply organic-based fertiliser in spring. Water regularly as they develop their flowers. Remove spent flower stems at the base. Divide congested clumps that can stop flowering. Autumn is best. Watch for mealybug, which causes stunting and twisted leaves. Use Eco-Neem. Eco-Oil or PestOil to treat sucking and chewing insects.



#### Entry form

Name:

Address:
Postcode:
Phone number:
Email:
Category entered
What makes your garden special?
Tell us about your garden (in 150 words or fewer),
including the challenges and triumphs, its size, age and
location. (Attach a separate sheet of paper if required.)
Plant list Please include a list of six to 10 of your key featured plants.
Plant design and maintenance
These questions are intended to help judges obtain
a better picture of your garden and how it is maintained.
Who designed your garden?
$\square$ Me $\square$ Landscape designer $\square$ It has evolved
over time $\Box$ Other (if other, please explain)
Who maintains your garden?
$\square$ Me $\square$ Professional help
If you receive professional assistance with maintenance,
how often does this occur?
$\square$ Weekly $\square$ Fortnightly $\square$ Monthly
Send us your photos

Please send a minimum of six (6) photos of your garden (prints or via email). These must have been taken within the past 12 months. They can be in the form of prints posted in with your entry, or digital images sent via email (no larger than 1MB each). We regret that we are unable to return submissions.

For full judging criteria and terms and conditions and a winner notification timeline, go to Bauer Media's website: www.bauer-media.com.au/terms/competition-terms. Entries close 11.59pm AEDST on November 1, 2015.

Open to Australian residents aged 18 years and over. One entry permitted per person. Please see Contents page for location of our Privacy Notice. If you do not want your information provided to any organisation not associated with this competition, please indicate this clearly on your entry. Promoter is Bauer Media Pty Ltd (ABN 18053273546).



# **CALLING ALL GARDENERS!**

Enter the H&G Garden of the Year competition for a chance to win an exciting trip for two to next year's Singapore Garden Festival.

re you a keen gardener with a lovely garden you're proud of? If so, the H&G Garden of the Year competition is for you. Enter by November 1 and you could be in the running to win fabulous prizes courtesy of outdoor furniture specialist and H&G supporter, Tait.

The major prize is a trip for two to Singapore to the Singapore Garden Festival in July 2016. The prize package includes return flights, and three nights' luxury accommodation, valued at \$3000, plus festival tickets.

The winners of the five categories will each receive a \$500 gift voucher from Tait, allowing them to choose their favourite item from Tait's range of designer outdoor furniture and accessories.

To enter, simply fill in the entry form and send us your details plus pictures of your garden by November 1.

#### All gardens big and small

All gardens, regardless of size and location, are eligible. We're looking for gardens that show dedication, thoughtful plant selection and good design.

#### The five categories are:

- + Small Garden Plots up to 400m<sup>2</sup>, including courtyards, rooftop gardens, large balconies and townhouse gardens.
- ➡ Medium Garden Gardens between 401m² and 1000m² (the old quarter-acre block).
- + Large Garden Gardens larger than 1000m<sup>2</sup>.
- + Pretty Garden Flowering gardens that show a flair for layout and design, plant selection, individual expression and visual appeal.
- ➡ Edible/Sustainable Garden Thriving productive gardens and/or gardens designed according to sustainability principles that encompass water management, waterwise planting and a commitment to organic practices.

#### How to enter

You can send your submissions by mail or email.

Mail Complete the entry form at left and send, along with your photos, to H&G Garden of the Year Competition, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW, 1028. Email Complete and scan the entry form and send, along with high-resolution photos (about 1MB each) to H&Ggardencomp@bauer-media.com.au.



Full judging criteria for each category is available by contacting us via email at H&Ggardencomp@bauer-media.com.au. To see the criteria using the free viewa app, scan this page and follow the prompts.

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# Coastal RETREAT

Designed for easy entertaining, the Australian House & Garden range of summer homewares has just arrived in store.

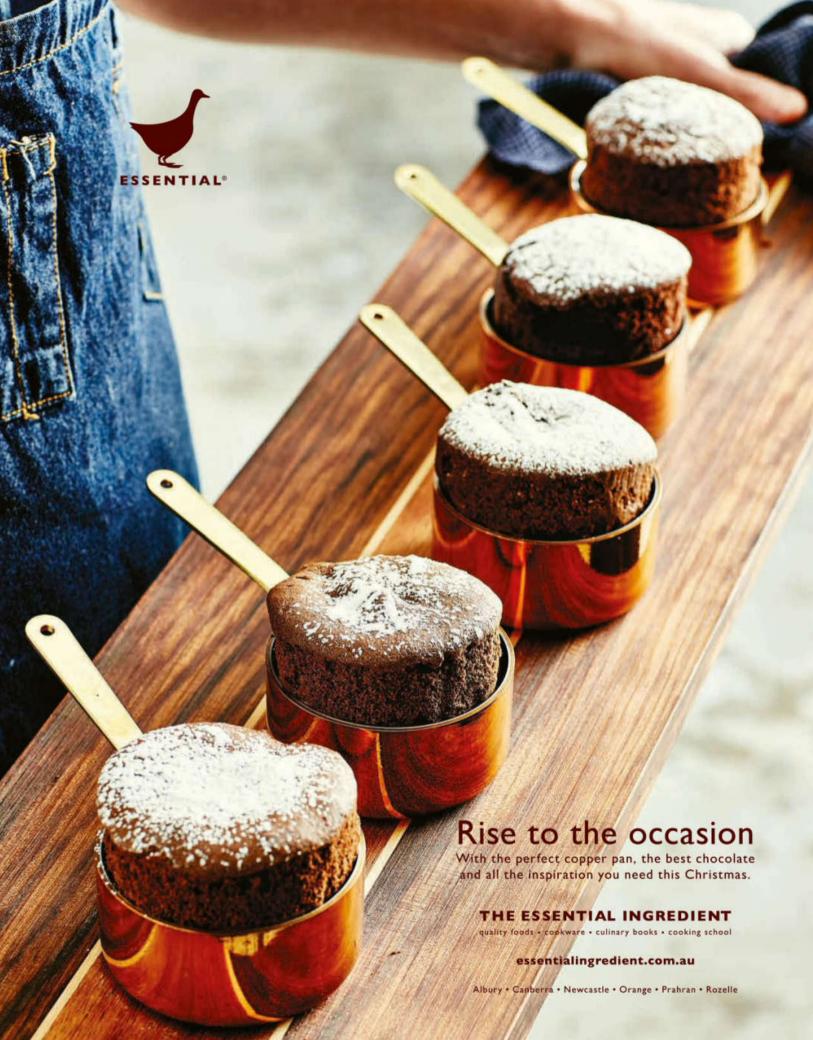
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The sun is high, the guests have arrived, and delicious aromas drift from the grill. It's the table that sets the tone for the occasion, so dip into ceramic tableware in shades drawn from the sea and sky as well as the palest of shell pinks. With white, wicker and wood in the mix, relaxed coastal style is assured.

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# LIVING

#### ENTERTAINING

## THE FIRE MASTER

He honed his skills in Spain's Basque Mountains and now chef **Lennox Hastie** is setting Australia alight with his brand of barbecuing. Here, his top recipes for beginners.

Blocks of ironbark, mallee, oak and olive trees, grapevines, fruit-tree cuttings, even old wine barrels, are used to fire the ovens and grills at Lennox's Firedoor restaurant in Sydney. And the seasonal dishes served up all carry the subtle characters of the embers, imparted during the cooking process.

"As a chef, fire is everything to me," says Lennox. "There is no other method of cooking that best highlights a really good ingredient. It intensifies all the natural flavours and fats in a dish."

Using fire for food is also about attitude, he says. "You've got to rely on your instincts and adjust to the conditions. You might not be able to source one ingredient, for instance, but you can find something similar."

Here's a little taster... "dishes you'd throw together if you had friends over". Firedoor, Surry Hills, NSW; (02) 8204 0800 or www.firedoor.com.au.

#### SURE-FIRE GRILLING

- When barbecuing, light the fire, close the lid, and adjust the vents to slow the rate of burning. If cooking over a firepit, enclose the fire with fire-rated bricks to help retain heat.
- Light the fire at least 90mins prior to cooking. Avoid using firelighters or treated wood, which can leave chemical residue.
- Use seasoned hardwood (at least 12 months old). Unseasoned (green) wood is harder to light and emits smoke instead of heat.
- Embers burn hotter than fire, so allow the wood to break down to glowing coals with a light-grey coating of ash before cooking. If the temperature is too high, the subtle flavour elements of the wood become lost.

#### ON THE MENU

"These are typical dishes I would cook at home. They showcase a variety of ingredients that can be cooked on the grill, including some you may not expect ... like lettuce."





#### **H&G** LIVING



#### **DARK & SHADY**

Prep: 5mins. Cooking: 5mins. Serves 4.

Over slow-burning embers or on a barbecue at low heat, grill 4 lime halves, cut-side down, for 4-6mins or until lightly caramelised. Gently pour 1½ cups (375ml) cold lager into a 2-3L jug, followed by 3 cups (750ml) chilled ginger beer and ½ cup (125ml) dark rum.

Squeeze limes into jug, then place lime halves in jug and top up with ice. Stir gently, then add 2 tbsp (40ml) crème de cassis and 12 dashes Angostura bitters.

Serve immediately.

ABOVE / Jug and high-ball glasses, Freedom. Tray, Ikea. OPPOSITE / Platter, Malcolm Greenwood. Turquoise bowl, The Bay Tree. Salad bowl, napkin and aqua wooden board, Koskela. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

#### Grilled chicken with lemon

Prep: 15 mins. Cooking: 40 mins. Serves 4.

1.5kg free-range chicken

- 2 tbsp peppery extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra to serve
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed, plus 1 whole head garlic extra, cut in half horizontally (optional)
- 2 lemon leaves, thinly sliced (optional, available from nurseries)
- 1 tbsp rosemary leaves, plus few sprigs extra for garnish 1 tsp lemon thyme leaves, plus
- few sprigs extra for garnish 1 tsp fresh oregano leaves
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon, plus 2 whole lemons, halved 1/4 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, for garnish
- 1 / Bring chicken to room temperature (about 2hrs). Burn hardwood to glowing embers of medium heat or preheat barbecue to high.
- **2** / To butterfly chicken, cut along both sides of the backbone with scissors and remove backbone. Turn chicken over and press down firmly to flatten. (Alternatively, ask your butcher to do this for you.)
- **3** / Place oil, crushed garlic, lemon leaves, herbs, lemon zest and salt to taste in a bowl and mix well. Massage mixture into underside of chicken.
- **4** / Brush garlic halves with oil and grill, cut-side down, for 2mins, then wrap in foil and roast over embers for a further 20mins.
- **5** / Grill chicken indirectly, skin-side down, moving chicken over grill for a few seconds to prevent sticking before setting down. Grill for about 25mins or until golden brown and chicken is cooked more than half way through, moving chicken once or twice during cooking. Turn chicken and grill a further 15mins until just cooked through and juices run clear when thigh is pierced. Remove from heat and set aside to rest for 10mins.
- **6** / Meanwhile, grill lemon halves until caramelised, about 5mins.
- **7** / Cut chicken into quarters, drizzle with olive oil and garnish with herbs. Serve immediately with grilled lemon and roasted garlic on the side.

## Grilled sweet potato with black barley & goats' cheese

Prep: 15 mins. Cooking: 35 mins. Serves 4.

- 1 cup (220g) black barley\* or pearl barley (\*available from select grocers and online)
- 1/3 cup coriander, leaves, finely chopped plus extra to serve Finely grated zest of 1/2 lemon
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil 4 small sweet potatoes, skin on, washed and cut into 1cm slices 150g soft goats' cheese 1 long red chilli, halved, seeds

removed and thinly sliced

- 1 / Burn hardwood to glowing embers of medium heat or preheat barbecue to medium heat.
- **2** / Place barley and 1L water in a saucepan over high heat and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, for 30mins or until tender but slightly chewy. Drain, standing in strainer 15mins; transfer to a bowl. Add coriander, lemon zest and half the olive oil. Mix well and season to taste. Set aside.
- **3** / Brush sweet potato with remaining oil, season to taste, then grill for 3mins per side or until lightly charred and cooked through.
- **4** / Spoon barley onto a plate and arrange sweet potato on top. Crumble goats' cheese over and garnish with extra coriander and chilli.



#### **H&G** LIVING





## Grilled baby gem lettuce with anchovies & toasted almonds

Prep: 15 mins. Cooking: 10 mins. Serves 4.

 ¼ cup (40g) blanched almonds
 baby gem or baby cos lettuce, quartered lengthways
 anchovy fillets in oil, such as Ortiz 1½ tbsp extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra to serve Finely grated zest and juice of ½ lemon ½ cup (40g) shaved parmesan

1 / Burn hardwood to embers of high heat for lettuce and medium heat for almonds (ie hot and cooler areas), or preheat a barbecue to high heat.

- **2** / Dry-roast almonds, tossing often, in a small frypan indirectly over embers for 6-8mins or until golden brown; set aside to cool, then split in half down natural seam of almond.
- **3** / Brush lettuce lightly with olive oil and grill until lightly charred, about 1min per side. Remove from heat and season to taste with sea salt and lemon zest.
- **4** / Arrange lettuce quarters over a platter, drape anchovy fillets on top, drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice to taste, scatter with shaved parmesan and toasted almonds and serve.

#### Grilled rib-eye cap with nasturtium leaf salsa

Prep: 15 mins. Cooking: 10 mins. Serves 4.

2x 400g pieces rib-eye cap or 450g rib-eye steaks, trimmed, at room temperature

#### Nasturtium salsa

1/2 cup firmly packed nasturtium leaves (available from select greengrocers)

25ml light, fruity extra-virgin olive oil

2 tbsp firmly packed flat-leaf

parsley leaves

1 tbsp firmly packed basil leaves ½ tbsp firmly packed mint leaves

2 tsp red wine vinegar

1 tsp capers in vinegar, rinsed 1 tsp Dijon mustard

i isp Dijon mustaru

1/2 anchovy fillet, finely chopped

¼ clove garlic

Finely grated zest and juice of ¼ lemon

- 1 / Burn hardwood (preferably grapevines) to embers of high heat or preheat barbecue to medium-high heat.
- **2** / To make nasturtium salsa, place all ingredients in a blender and process until very smooth. Season to taste with sea salt; set aside.
- **3** / Grill beef, turning once, or until charred and cooked medium-rare, about 3-5mins for rib-eye caps or 4-6mins for rib-eye steaks. Season well while grilling. When cooked to your liking, remove from heat and set aside in a warm place to rest for 5mins. Slice beef across the grain and serve with nasturtium salsa on the side.

**TOP /** Plate, Ikea. Hexagon board, Country Road. Cutlery, Georg Jensen. Small dish, Koskela. Fabric, No Chintz. Dining table, Eco Outdoor. **BOTTOM /** Dinner plates, Country Road. Side dish, The Essential Ingredient. Napkin, Koskela. Hexagon board, Country Road. **OPPOSITE /** Bowl, Ikea. Spoon, Georg Jensen. Napkin, No Chintz. Side dish, The Essential Ingredient. Dining chair, Eco Outdoor. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

#### Grilled pineapple with coconut crème fraîche

Prep: 15 mins + 4 hrs chilling. Cooking: 15 mins. Serves 4. 1/3 cup (20g) toasted coconut flakes 1.5kg ripe pineapple 40g coconut sugar 1/2 dried Javanese long pepper, finely grated (available

from Herbie's Spices) 1 can (400ml) coconut milk such as Ayam or Kara brand, chilled in tin for at least 4hrs 1-2 tsp lemon juice

1 / Burn hardwood to embers of medium heat or preheat a barbecue to medium. Toast coconut flakes in a frypan directly over embers, tossing frequently, for 1-2mins or until golden; set aside. Continue to burn embers to low heat.

2 / Peel pineapple, discarding skin, then trim flesh down to the 'eyes', reserving trimmings. Core, reserving core, and cut pineapple into 8 wedges.

3 / Juice reserved core and trimmings in a juicer. Place 250ml of juice, 3/4 of the coconut sugar and Javanese long pepper in a saucepan over high heat and simmer for 6-8mins or until reduced by half. Set aside.

4 / Open coconut milk and spoon solids into a bowl. Whisk in lemon juice and remaining sugar; refrigerate until needed. 5 / Grill pineapple over low heat, turning occasionally, for 10-12mins or until caramelised, brushing frequently with long pepper syrup. Serve with coconut crème fraîche and garnished with toasted coconut flakes. H&G



# **SMART DROPS**



No matter which style of wine you favour, there's a wealth of excellent quality to be found for less than \$30, writes **Toni Paterson**.

ustralia produces an abundance of excellent wine, so keeping a tight rein on the purse strings needn't mean skimping on quality.

If you're in the mood for fizz, prosecco is a smart option. The 2014 Freeman Prosecco (\$23) is fresh, fruity and satisfying.

From the Adelaide Hills comes the ever-fabulous 2015 Shaw+Smith Sauvignon Blanc (\$26), a benchmark sauvignon blanc with intense passionfruit and crisp lemon characters. Also good is the 2014 Mojo Sauvignon Blanc (\$18) – bright, zippy and incredibly refreshing. Fans of gris will enjoy the lively 2014 Redbank Sunday Morning Pinot Gris (\$22).

With the 2015 rieslings now hitting the shelves, there are many to choose from. Although most are dry, the 2015 Pewsey Vale Prima Riesling (\$26) is an early-harvest style from Eden Valley with a lower alcohol content of 9.5% and balanced sweetness. Pair with a spicy Vietnamese prawn salad with chilli, coriander and lime.

For a fuller-flavoured wine, try the 2014 Hardys HRB Riesling D659 (\$30). The blend of Clare Valley and Tasmanian grapes creates a wine with breadth, intense juicy flavours and excellent length. Hardys also produces the 2014 HRB Chardonnay D660 (\$30). Multi-regional grape sourcing creates a beautifully even palate, and barrel fermentation adds subtle savoury notes.

Chardonnay comes in many guises. If you love toasty complexity, seek out the 2013 Katnook Estate Chardonnay (\$28)

from Coonawarra. Also try the 2014 Pepper Tree Limited Release Hunter Valley Chardonnay (\$22) – a steal at the price!

Enter light red territory with the intense berry flavours of the 2015 Hay Shed Hill Pinot Noir Rosé (\$28), then head to New Zealand for the fruit-focused 2013 Stoneleigh Latitude Pinot Noir (\$28).

The 2014 Negroamaro (\$25) from South Australian producer Hesketh Wines is medium-bodied and aromatic, with striking cherry and mulberry notes. Check out the spicy – and more-ish – 2014 Hesketh Mezzo Shiraz Mataro (\$22) too.

With its ripe red fruit and plush midpalate, the 2013 Devil's Lair The Hidden Cave Cabernet Shiraz (\$23) is a bargain. If you like medium-bodied reds, don't miss the 2013 Bremerton Coulthard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$22) with its blackcurrant aromas and gentle drying tannins. Fuller in body is the 2013 Hardys Tintara Cabernet Sauvignon (\$28). It will also benefit from a few years in the cellar.

The current 2013 Wirra Wirra Church Block Cabernet Shiraz Merlot (\$20) is solid, dependable and satisfying. For something completely different, try the 2013 Jacob's Creek Double Barrel Shiraz (\$25). It has been aged in old whisky casks, which impart sweet, nutty notes over the rich, chocolatey fruit.

At the end of a meal, bring out the cheese and a bottle of 2013 Calabria Three Bridges Botrytis Semillon (\$25). It's golden, luscious and delicious.



### TONI'S TOP DROPS

2015 Heggies Vineyard Eden Valley Riesling, \$24 Cool, high-altitude viticulture produces exceptionally intense, focused flavours. Pristine citrus notes and sublime linear acidity. 2012 Yalumba Galway Vintage Malbec, \$18 Immensely delicious with plush blackberry fruit and a savoury undercurrent. 2014 West Cape Howe Styx Gully Chardonnay, \$28 Divine white stone-fruit flavours. Expertly made with excellent integration and balance. The palate is delicious and persistent. 2014 Pepper Tree Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, \$19 An unlikely vet fabulous blend of Hunter Valley semillon and Tasmanian sauvignon blanc. It's bright and delicious with intense lemon and passionfruit notes.









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ou just can't beat the classics, and classic French dishes in particular are a pleasure to both cook and eat. I cook these dishes again and again as there's never a time or place where they feel irrelevant. They rely on basic techniques and good ingredients, and that combination will never let you down. My pissaladière (the French take on pizza) uses onion and anchovies, so I look for quality anchovies that are slightly firm, not overly salty, and preserved in oil. Cherries are just coming into season and I love using them in clafoutis, or baked custard. By all means feel free to change the ingredients to suit your taste – blueberries are a great substitute for cherries and other toppings can be used for the pissaladière – but the one thing you should never skimp on is freshness.

#### PISSALADIÈRE

Prep: 35 mins. Cooking: 1 hr 20 mins.
Serves 6-8.

90ml extra-virgin olive oil
90ml warm water
2 eggs
375g plain flour
4 onions, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, crushed
65ml olive oil
1 bunch thyme leaves, coarsely chopped
8 large anchovy fillets, each cut
lengthways into 3 strips
10 pitted kalamata olives, halved
Fresh herbs, to garnish

1 / Place extra-virgin olive oil, water, eggs and a pinch of salt in a large bowl; whisk to combine. Add flour and mix to a dough, then turn out and knead until smooth. Cover with a cloth and rest 1hr. 2 / Meanwhile, place onion, garlic and olive oil in a saucepan and cook, stirring occasionally, over medium heat until onion is translucent, about 15mins. Reduce heat to low, and cook, stirring occasionally, until onion has caramelised, a further 45mins. Stir thyme through then remove from heat. Stand 5mins, then strain through a sieve. Cool 10mins. 3 / Preheat oven to 220°C (200°C fan). Roll dough to 2cm thick on a lightly floured surface, place on a well-greased oven tray. Trim edges; prick with a fork. Spread onion evenly over pastry, then arrange anchovies in a lattice pattern and

olives on top. Bake on lower shelf of oven until pastry is crisp, about 18mins. Garnish with fresh herbs and serve.

#### CHERRY CLAFOUTIS

Prep: 10 mins + overnight refrigeration.
Cooking: 20 mins. Serves 6.
100g blanched almonds
Scant 2 tbsp (25g) plain flour
Scant 3/4 cup (160g) caster sugar, plus
extra for dusting
4 whole eggs, plus 6 egg yolks extra
1 cup (250ml) pouring cream
200g pitted cherries, halved if large
Pure icing sugar, to dust

1 / Preheat oven to 160°C (140°C fan). Roast almonds on an oven tray until light golden, about 8mins. Cool, then place in a food processor and pulse to a coarse crumb. Add flour and a pinch of salt, pulse to combine. Add sugar, pulse, then add eggs and yolks, followed by cream, pulsing to bring together. Mixture should still be coarse in texture. Refrigerate overnight.

2 / Butter 6x shallow 250ml-capacity ovenproof ramekins, dust with caster sugar and place on a baking tray. Stir batter well then pour into ramekins. Arrange cherries on top, pressing into batter slightly.

**3** / Bake at 160°C (140°C fan) until golden and puffed, about 25mins. Dust with icing sugar and serve immediately. **TIP** Clafoutis will collapse and become dense the longer it is out of the oven. **H&G** 



FEEL FREE TO CHANGE THE INGREDIENTS TO SUIT YOUR TASTE BUT THE ONE THING YOU SHOULD NEVER SKIMP ON IS FRESHNESS.

For a bonus recipe, salad Lyonnaise, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.







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#### Where to stay

- **◆** 25hours Hotel Hipster haven overlooking the zoo. Free bike rental. Charlottenburg; 25hours-hotels.com/en.
- ♣ Gorki Apartments Elegant apartments with kitchenettes in cafe central. Mitte; gorkiapartments.de.
- **♣** Das Stue Boutique hotel with a Michelin-starred restaurant. Tiergarten; das-stue.com.

#### Where to shop

- Manufactum German-made furnishings, homewares and treats. Charlottenburg; manufactum.de.
- Bikini Berlin Charlottenburg; bikiniberlin.de.
- **◆ Voo Store** Clothing and accessories. Kreuzberg; vooberlin.com.
- ♣ Andreas Murkudis Unisex fashion. Tiergarten; andreasmurkudis.com.

#### Where to eat

- + Schwarzes Café Open 24/7 and famous for its hearty breakfasts. Charlottenburg; schwarzescafe-berlin.de.
- ★ The Grand A fine dining restaurant, bar and nightclub. Mitte; the-grand-berlin.com.
- ◆ Salumeria Lamuri Soup, salad, pasta and risotto. Kreuzberg; lasalumeria. wordpress.com.

#### Absolute musts

- Clärchens Ballhaus This kitsch-glam ballroom has been hosting dance parties since 1913. Mitte; ballhaus.de.
- + me Collectors Room Renaissance and Baroque curiosities exhibited beside contemporary artworks. me-berlin.com.
- + Sammlung Boros
  Contemporary art in a
  former air-raid shelter. Mitte;
  sammlung-boros.de.
- Take a history and architecture tour with Jean-Pierre Andreae; premiumguideberlin.com.

◀ the streets is like passing through a gigantic canvas. Flippant graffiti and murals by Banksy fans knit together a sprawl of 20-odd *kiez* (neighbourhoods).

#### **Beauty and the Brutalist**

In October, Germany celebrates the 25th anniversary of reunification. Some 600 galleries, 175 museums, three opera houses and scores of cinemas and theatres bear testament to Berlin's cultural cachet. Yet this city is far from pretentious. Rather, it thrives on mystique. Street lighting is withdrawn to a dull glow, and the scene is very much underground. Even with addresses in hand, I find myself hunting for galleries and gritty-glam cocktail dens discreetly located off the main drags. Walking along Torstraße, the long central strip of gentrified Mitte, I'm amazed by the abundance of Brutalist architecture smeared in graffiti. Behind the drab exteriors, however, lie hotels and design stores. Heading northeast on foot, I encounter the wide boulevards of Prenzlauer Berg, lined with townhouses renovated by upwardly mobile families.

#### Artfelt changes

Berliners are constantly transforming derelict buildings and unused spaces into new hangouts. After Tempelhof Airport closed in 2008, it was reimagined as a community-led park complete with allotments and event spaces. In Friedrichshain, a Sunday food market called Neue Heimat sprang from the shambles of an abandoned rail yard. Back in Mitte, a former margarine factory has been transformed into the Kunst-Werke Berlin, a cutting-edge art complex.

Even the neighbourhood du jour is in flux. Neglected Kreuzberg (in the far eastern corner of former West Berlin) now attracts hipsters looking for affordable rent. I start my exploration of this *kiez* on foot from the Oberbaumbrücke Bridge. Here, Berlin's appetite for the individual manifests in quirky cafes, experimental restaurants and project spaces, which

sprout like mushrooms along a picturesque canal and between leafy streets lined with grand *altbau* (pre-1949 character buildings) apartments. My efforts are rewarded as I enter the Markthalle Neun, a magnificently restored glass-roofed farmers' market built 120 years ago. Beneath carnival lighting, the lunch crowd bustles around trestle tables, eating cured salmon with sauerkraut on slabs of crusty *bauernbrot*.

Zipping across town on the U-Bahn, I discover well-heeled Charlottenburg, in the former West Berlin. During the days of the Weimar Republic, this was hedonism central. Now, it houses Berlin's first concept mall, Bikini Berlin. Lining its industrial-style interior is a mix of edgy boutiques, designer homewares stores, and a rooftop park overlooking Berlin Zoo. The attached 25hours Hotel boasts a rooftop bar, and its modern Middle-Eastern restaurant Neni affords panoramic views of leafy Tiergarten. This appears to be very much the more glamorous face of 'New Berlin.'

#### Walking among history

It may well have a reputation as a party town, but Berlin acknowledges its past with stoic reverence. Most poignant are the thousands of Stolpersteine (brass paving stones commemorating victims of the Holocaust) that glint from the streets outside the houses where Jewish families resided. And in the city's north-west, stretching along Bernauer Straße, remnants of the original Wall border the Berlin War Memorial. It's a grassy plain dotted with murals and shrines dedicated to communities divided by the Wall, and the many who died while attempting to flee the East. Across the street at the Documentation Center, I'm drawn to the fascinating and heartfelt recollections of life under communist rule.

There are few cities that consume your thoughts quite like Berlin. The key is to pack decent shoes and an enquiring mind. Ghosts of its past are found on every corner... along with tomorrow's zeitgeist.







an National Tourist Board, germany.travel; visitberlin.de/en. Photography by Stephan Lemke

#### **CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE**

LEFT / The quirky interior of
The Monkey Bar, at 25hours Hotel
in Charlottenburg. Christian Boros'
bunker-turned-cutting edge art
gallery in Mitte. At Bikini Berlin
mall in Charlottenburg, shoppers
can pause and enjoy panoramic views
of Berlin Zoo. Bustling Markthalle
Neun, open on Fridays and
Saturdays, is popular with foodies.
The Astronaut wall mural in
Kreuzberg. A festive courtyard
in Mitte.







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#### FIG & RICOTTA TOAST

**INGREDIENTS** (to serve 1)

- 2 tbs reduced-fat ricotta cheese
- pinch ground cinnamon
- 2 slices multigrain bread
- 2 figs, sliced
- 1 tsp honey

#### METHOD

In a small bowl, mix the ricotta and cinnamon together.

- 2 Place the bread in toaster and cook to your liking.
- 3 Spread the ricotta over bread evenly, then top with sliced fig.
- Drizzle the honey over the toast, then enjoy!

#### **NUTRITION PER SERVE**

Calories: 253 Sodium: 344.1mg **Fibre:** 6.7g Fat, total: 4.7q Saturated fat: 1.9q Carbohydrates: 39.4q

**Sugars:** 16.3g Protein: 9.8g

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\*\*Priceline Pharmacy Health Tracker Report August 2015



before we get to that, Dr Harrington stresses that waking up at night is normal. It's only a problem if something prevents you from going back to sleep.

That something could be using a laptop or smartphone late at night, because the light these devices emit is bright enough to interfere with the brain's production of melatonin, a hormone we need for sleep.

"Melatonin is produced in fading light or darkness and it's important for both falling asleep and staying asleep," says Dr Harrington. "Although disruptions to melatonin may not prevent you falling asleep if you're very tired, you may find it difficult to get back to sleep because there's insufficient melatonin to keep you asleep."

- → Watch your anxiety. Look at it without judgement. Try not to consider it good or bad, but simply something that's happening to your body. The more we are able to remain detached from our anxiety, the easier it is not to be swept up in it.
- ♣ Act with the anxiety. Pretend you're not anxious. Think pleasant thoughts and breathe slowly and normally. "By breathing normally you can control the stress response and be on your way to decreasing its effects," says Dr Harrington.
- ♣ Repeat the steps. Keep repeating these steps – accept, watch, act – until the anxiety drops to a comfortable level, which it will.
- **★ Expect** the best. "What you fear the most rarely happens. A certain level of worry



#### Pillow talk

Using a high-quality pillow that suits your sleep style is one of the most important ways to ensure a decent night's slumber. Scott Haywood, marketing manager for Tontine, has this advice to help you find the right pillow:

- For those who prefer to sleep on their back or side, a medium-soft, medium-height pillow is perfect.
- For children, and adults with a smaller frame, as well as those who sleep on their stomach, a low-profile pillow works best.
- For side sleepers with larger frames, men in particular, a high-profile pillow is most suitable.
- ♣ If you have neck and back pain, the best style of pillow could be memory foam. "Memory-foam pillows mould exactly to the contours of your head and neck, providing the ultimate in customised support," he says.
- ♣ In general, look for pillows that have anti-allergy treatments designed to inhibit the growth of dust mites. "And wash your pillowcases every week and pillows every month."
- He also recommends using a good-quality pillow protector, which creates a barrier between you and your pillow. Change pillows often, too. "Every year is ideal, but keep them no longer than two years."

### 'MAKE SURE YOUR BEDROOM IS QUIET, COOL, DARK AND FREE OF ANY TECHNOLOGY.'

DR CARMEL HARRINGTON, SLEEP SPECIALIST

A product containing melatonin can be prescribed for people diagnosed with insomnia or poor sleep quality by a health practitioner. Evidence suggests that it's most effective in people older than 55 or those with an age-related decline in the body's ability to make melatonin, says Regina Cowie, a pharmacist at Priceline.

Caffeine may be another culprit if you're struggling to sleep. Fatigue can override caffeine's effects so you are able to fall asleep, but its effects can persist, making it difficult to get back to sleep if you wake in the early hours. If sleep is a problem, Dr Harrington's advice is to avoid caffeine in the afternoon and evening.

And then there's anxiety: the 3am panic that kicks in when you've woken up, are unable to get back to sleep, and know the alarm will ring in three hours' time. The best strategy in this situation is an anxiety-quelling technique that Dr Harrington calls AWARE:

♣ Accept the anxiety. "If you resist it, you will prolong the anxiety and increase the agitation it brings," she says. is normal and often beneficial in that it prompts us to do things we may be tempted to put off until tomorrow, but it's also important to think positively and expect good outcomes," she says.

Women tend to struggle more with sleep issues than men due to fluctuating hormones. Being too warm sabotages slumber and the rise in body temperature in the second half of the menstrual cycle can make it harder to sleep, while low oestrogen levels at menopause can disrupt the body's thermostat.

The best approach is to keep your bedroom cool at night, use bedlinen and sleepwear made from natural fibres. Switch your mind off by putting the issues of the day to rest in the early evening. "Spend 20 minutes writing down the things that concern you, along with potential solutions, then put your notebook away," says Dr Harrington. "One hour before bedtime turn off your electronic devices, dim the lights, have a shower or try a relaxation exercise. Make sure your bedroom is quiet, cool and free of any technology."











6

This season's bare-faced chic calls for subtle cosmetics that suffuse natural features with an aura of youthful radiance, writes **Elisabeth King**.

There's nothing new about today's 'no-make-up' make-up look. What's changed is that going bare-faced is no longer just for teens. New products deliver a healthy glow to women of all ages, featuring subtle, lasting colours that never looked washed out.

#### **BROW POWER**

Well-groomed brows are key to a younger appearance. Rimmel London Brow This Way styling gel (5), \$13, is available in three coloured shades as well as a clear version. Simply brush this mascara-style definer upwards to keep brows in place all day.

#### **PRIME TIME**

Primers and concealers cover imperfections and bypass the need for heavy foundations. Giorgio Armani Fluid Master Primer (6), \$75, smoothes away fine lines and adds a soft glow.

#### **CUSHIONY COMFORT**

The latest beauty innovation is the cushion compact. Basically, it's a sponge soaked in super-thin foundation that gives featherlight coverage that doesn't crack or crease. Lancôme Miracle Cushion (7), \$60 - a cocktail of sunscreen, make-up and skincare - can be touched up throughout the day.

#### FLUSH WITH SUCCESS

Cream blushers are the way to go if you want natural-looking cheeks. Chanel Les Beiges Healthy Glow Sheer Colour Blush Stick (4), \$71, comes in coral, brown and pink hues to suit most skins.

#### **GOING NUDE**

For younger women, a thin liner does the trick of opening up the eyes without looking 'done'. For the over-35 set, nude shadows give a more polished finish. Models Prefer Nude Eyeshadow Palette (3), \$13, has 10 matt and shiny shadows for day and night intensities.

#### **FLUTTER UP**

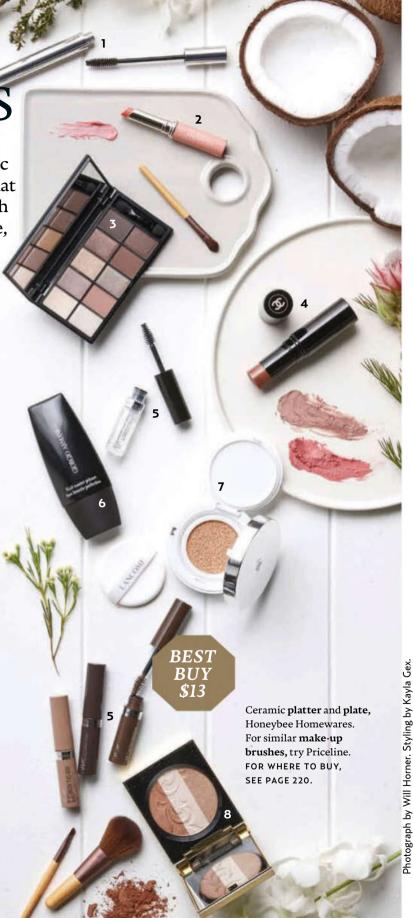
Keep volumising or thickening mascaras for after dark; length without bulk is the way for daytime lashes. Clinique Naturally Glossy Mascara (1), \$38, lifts and separates your lashes without clumping.

#### **REASONS TO SMILE**

For subtle shine, choose a tinted balm one shade darker than your lips, or opt for a luminous tint. Try Rimmel London's Lasting Finish by Kate Nude Collection lipsticks, \$13, ranging in colour from pale to coffee, or Clarins Instant Light Lip Balm Perfector (2), \$30, in six on-trend shades.

#### EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

For added glow, use highlighter on the apples of your cheeks, forehead and chin. Elizabeth Arden's Golden Opulence Beautiful Color Highlighter (8), \$45, features three shades to brighten the skin and deflect attention from fine lines. **H&G** 



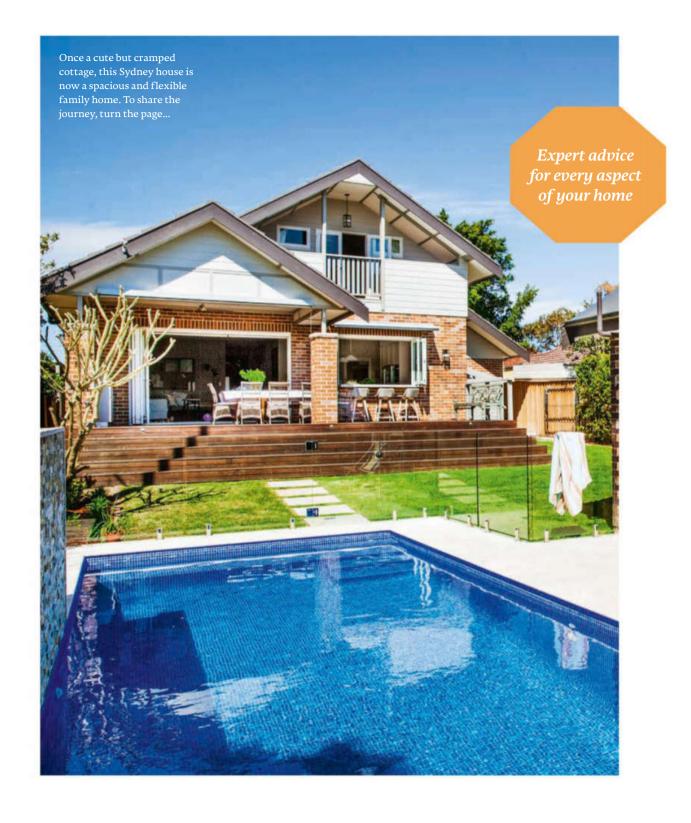












# **ADVICE**





hree years of patient auction attendance meant Ro and Richard acted quickly in 2010 when they heard their ideal house in Sydney's inner west was available, off-market. Within an hour of inspection, their offer was accepted; the character-filled, 1930s-era home on a large, 840m² level block was theirs.

With one small child, another on the way, and plans for more, the couple knew they would outgrow the three-bedroom cottage, but didn't want to rush into a renovation. "We wanted to understand the house before we changed anything. We wanted to know what we loved, where the sun was strongest and, importantly, to save some money," says Ro.

After two years the couple had pinned down needs and wishes and briefed architect Joshua Allen of 8 Squared. "Richard and I are both from large families, so the house needed to be able to entertain the masses, but I didn't want it to feel cavernous," says Ro. "We wanted it to be humble from the street and warm and welcoming inside."

Joshua fulfilled the brief perfectly. The front of the cottage was retained for the children's bedrooms, bathroom and formal living room, while the rear half was extended to make way for an open-plan kitchen, dining and casual living area. A second floor was added within the existing roofline for the main bedroom, ensuite and study.

Enlisting interior decorator Sophie Duffy early on set the tone for the new-look home, says Ro. "She referenced the original features, incorporating them in a way that feels modern yet respectful of their heritage."

#### AT A GLANCE

Who lives here Richard and Ro, and their children,

Phoebe, Sami and Edward.

Renovation timeline 18 months.

Architect Joshua Allen, 8 Squared, Camperdown,

NSW; 8squared.com.au or 0413 484 237.

**Builder** Andrew Johnson, Good Foundations

Building; www.goodfoundationsbuilding.com.au.

#### Interior decorator

Sophie Duffy; www.

thedressednest.com.au.

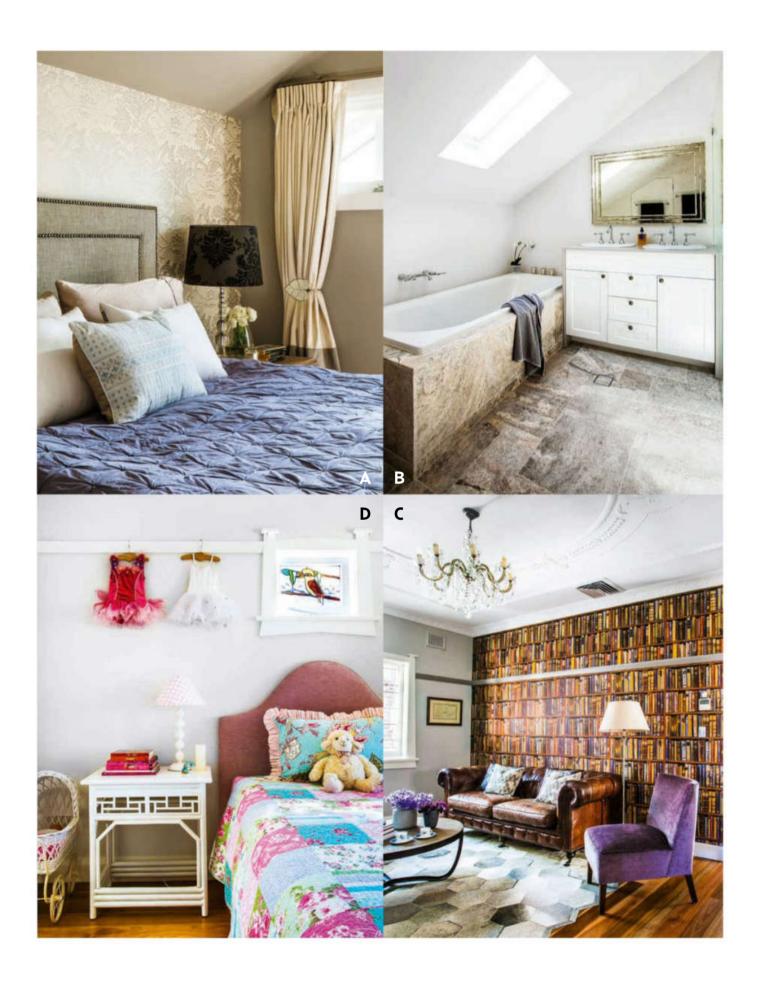
Size of home pre-

renovation 140m<sup>2</sup>

Size of home post-

renovation 350m<sup>2</sup>





#### A Main bedroom

Lush textiles abound in the main bedroom, from the tactile bedlinen to the Florence Broadhurst Tudor Floral wallpaper and the studded bedhead in Villa Nova Malmo Soft in Mineral from Marco Fabrics

#### **B** Main ensuite

Silver travertine tiles were chosen for their beautiful mixed-grey shades. For visual impact, the tiles have been cut in a variety of dimensions and laid in a traditional French style.

#### C Formal living room

Richard and Ro asked Sophie Duffy to give the living room a strong masculine aesthetic. With Andrew Martin Library wallpaper and a traditional chesterfield sofa it's a grown-up retreat where they can unwind at the end of the day.

#### **D** Phoebe's bedroom

Original features, such as the classic kookaburra stained-glass window in this bedroom, have been incorporated into new decor. The bedside table is from Sasson Home. The bedlinen is from Siroccohome; bedhead fabric is Lovable in Blush from Marco Fabrics.

#### Back garden (below)

The home's entertainment zone now opens out onto a deck, allowing large gatherings to spill into the backyard.



#### FIRST FLOOR





#### GROUND FLOOR





#### Ro project managed the renovation herself. Here are her tips:

- + Continuously review your plans; know what is coming next and be prepared.
- ♣ Assemble a collaborative team and go to the site as often as possible. Site visits ensure good communication between all parties.
- **◆** To stay within budget, pay in instalments. When inevitable 'surprises' arise, you can cut back on costs allocated further along the process.
- ♣ Our builder suggested we source materials ourselves wherever possible and have them arrive on site in advance. It saves on management costs and avoids confusion over material choices. Our builder recommended many of his top suppliers to us and we dealt directly with them.
  H&G

#### THE BUDGET

Preliminaries & insurance	\$15,000
Bricks & materials	\$60,000
Surveyor	\$10,000
Joinery	\$60,000
Demolition & earthworks	\$55,000
Windows	\$30,000
Plumbing & waterproofing	\$30,000
Carpet supply & insulation	\$10,000
Electrical	\$30,000
Appliances & door hardware	\$10,000
Concreting	\$30,000
Wet area fixture & fittings	\$8,000
Roofing	\$40,000
Fencing	\$5,000

Timber flooring	\$25,000
Landscaping	\$20,000
Tiling/paving (including pool)	\$45,000
Council & authority permits	\$5,000
Gyprock & insulation	\$25,000
Final cleaning	\$5,000
Skylights & ventilators	\$15,000
Labour	\$80,000
Rendering & plastering	\$20,000
Builder's margin	\$60,000
Painting	\$40,000
Interior decorator	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$748,000





## special report steam appliances

It has long been the housekeeper's little helper and now steam power is pushing ovens, washing machines and showers to new heights, writes **Georgia Madden**.



ou may have noticed a raft of new steam-powered products turning up in showrooms recently. That's because appliance manufacturers have cottoned on to the wonderful attributes of steam. As professional cleaners will tell you, steam is gentle on clothes and powerful enough to clean the whole house in an effective, chemical-free manner. It is also proving beneficial in ovens, where

it can lock in food's moisture and nutrients, and works wonders in dishwashers, where it helps deliver sparkling tableware.

Simple steam power has proved itself handy around the house for centuries; what's different is the number of ways in which it's being utilised and the increasing sophistication of steam-driven products. No longer limited to ironing, steam technology is cropping up everywhere.

"Steam has so many applications, from cooking to cleaning and washing," says Colin Jones, product expert at Appliances Online. "And with so many manufacturers offering steam functions, appliances using steam are becoming more affordable."

In these health-conscious times, it's not difficult to see why steam is transforming ovens. "Pure steam cooking preserves the nutrients and colours in food, and allows different foods to be cooked in the oven at once without flavours intermingling," says Monica McCormack, cooking product manager for Bosch. "By selecting the steam function, intermittent bursts of steam are released during the cooking process, which means your bread and meat turns out beautifully. Reheating with steam ensures food is not overcooked or dehydrated."

Consumers can choose from dedicated steam ovens, combination models that offer both conventional and steam cooking, and multifunction microwaves that have steam, convection and grill programs.

Sick of spending time at the sink rinsing dishes by hand before you load them into the dishwasher? Consider a model with a steam function, which sprays and sanitises dishes with high-pressure steam before starting the wash cycle. (LG and Miele are among the brands that have harnessed steam for this purpose.)

If you are sensitive to household cleaning products or simply want to limit the number of chemicals you use around your home, advances in steam cleaning are sure to pique your interest. "With steam you get a hygienic clean without the need for cleaning agents," says Lauren Civelle, national cleaning buyer at Bunnings. "The combination of steam pressure and temperature will remove food residue, grease, bacteria, dust mites, mould and other dirt from surfaces without

## DIY DRY CLEANING?

Will dry-cleaning and handwashing special-care clothes soon become a thing of the past? At the latest International CES technology trade show, held in Las Vegas in January, LG unveiled the Styler 2, a secondgeneration steam closet that gently sprays hanging garments with steam to refresh them, remove odours and kill germs and bacteria without the need for any detergent. The closet also has a function that gently shakes out wrinkles and a feature to deliver neatly creased suit trousers in about half an hour. There's no word yet on an Australian launch or pricing, but watch this space.

## 'THE COMBINATION OF STEAM PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE WILL REMOVE DIRT WITHOUT HARMING



FROM LEFT / SC3 steam cleaner, \$325, Kärcher; www.karcher.com.au. 1132G Bissell Vac & Steam floor cleaner, \$369, Domayne; www.domayne online.com.au. Vax Duo Master steam mop, \$186, Bunnings; www.bunnings.com.au. S6a 764 steam ironing system, \$2799, Laurastar; www. laurastar.com.au. FashionMaster steam ironing system, \$2199, Miele; www.miele.com.au. OPPOSITE / EVE678BA38cm combination steam and multifunction compact oven (top left), \$3079, and EVEP618BB 60cm steam and pyrolytic multifunction oven (bottom right), \$3799, Electrolux; 1300 363 640 or www.electrolux.com.au.



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THAT'S WHAT STEAM CAN DO.' CHRIS COTTARIS. DELSA

◀ harming the environment." According to Kärcher trainer Brad Raftery, steam cleaning kills 99.99 per cent of bacteria and is suitable for most hard surfaces (except timber and laminate), including tiles, glass, stainless steel, ovens and mirrors. It can be used on carpets and some curtains, too. Bissell now makes a steam vacuum cleaner that offers, along with the usual functionality, a deep steamclean action for carpet.

Where steam really comes into its own is in the laundry. By using the steam cycle on your washing machine (Electrolux, Miele and LG make models with a steam setting), you can gently refresh clothes that don't need a full wash. "Steam cycles could soon be standard in washing machines across a variety of price points," says Rodney Manauzzi, sales expert at Winning Appliances. "As with steam ovens, once homeowners understand

what steam can offer, I think we'll see it being embraced in washing machines."

LG and Miele lead the way in this field. They have added steam functionality to dryers, too, allowing you to remove odours from clothes without using any detergent. Other ways you can show your clothes some love? Garment steamers from Sunbeam and Tefal will remove wrinkles quickly and easily, and complete steam ironing systems from brands such as Laurastar and Miele are a modern marvel.

For those who love the idea of relaxing in a steam shower at the end of the day, Rogerseller and Delsa sell fully enclosed steam shower units. Chris Cottaris, sales manager at Delsa, says units range from \$10,000 to \$30,000, depending on size and extras such as built-in speakers and chromatherapy lighting. Or dip a toe in first by combining steam accessories with your existing shower.



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## Fisher&Paykel -

# ask an expert



Interiors expert Rose-Marie Hillier tackles the logistics of hanging kitchen pendant lights and shares her list of the best door hardware products on the market.

Q What size pendant light should I install over a 2.4x1.3m kitchen bench? The ceiling is 2.7m high. Could I use one large pendant? Kelly Strange, via email

A A pendant light has impact both as a light source and as a decorative object. The style and number of lights will depend on several factors. For a start, is the kitchen located in an enclosed room, or does it form part of an open-plan area? If you have one large hooded pendant light, it breaks the line of sight into other areas of an open space.

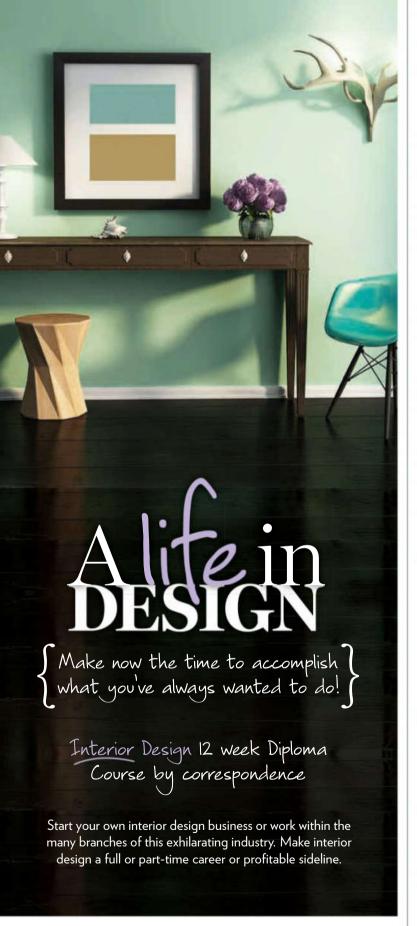
It's usually easier to accommodate this style in an enclosed space, as the fitting becomes part of the overall design. However, the illumination from a single oversized dome may make you feel as though you are working in a laboratory. A large pendant is usually hung lower than a small design, too, so you might run the risk of hitting your head.

My own island bench has similar dimensions and I have two 33cm-diameter glass, cone-hat style pendants installed 66cm above the bench, which I find ideal. For your bench, try two or three egg- or cone-shaped pendants with a diameter of 20-35cm, hung 65-67cm above the bench. You also need to think about the type of light you want, whether bright or diffused. For open-plan spaces and food-prep areas, I recommend fittings that shade or conceal the bulb, rather than expose them.



Send your question, with your name and address, to Rose-Marie via H&G Advice, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028, or email h&g@





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#### FAST FIND

#### DRAWER & DOOR KNOBS

They're often overlooked in the process of decorating and renovating, but drawer and door knobs are essential finishing details for well-dressed cabinetry.

Here's a look at the loveliest...

#### Leather report

This über-chic knob is crafted from highly polished chrome and hand-stitched Italian leather. Its impeccable styling makes it suitable for bedrooms and living spaces: imagine it gracing your wall units, drawers and wardrobes, \$20, Hepburn Hardware; www.hepburnhardware.com.



#### New angles

The Studio Line Hexagonal 1966 knob would look simply fabulous on an exterior door and it can be modified for use on cabinetry. It's made to order in a number of beautiful finishes, ranging from antique bronze to verdigris. POA, The Nanz Company; (02) 8188 4208 or www.nanz.com.



#### Securely stylish

Sleek and streamlined, this 2500 DOM door knob by Allgood Modric in polished anodised aluminium is imported from the UK. It's available in fixed versions for installing on furniture as well as sets for use on doors. From \$239, Keeler Hardware; www.keelerhardware.com.au.



#### Polka dotty

Fancy embellishing a vintage dresser or old cupboard? This cute ceramic knob in shades of green and blue is just the ticket for rejuvenating a tired piece of furniture. At this price, you could buy more to update your kitchen cabinetry, too. \$5, Few and Far; www.fewandfar.com.au.



#### Divinely Deco

The PC2780 fixed door knob, for entry or interior doors, is pure Art Deco styling in polished chrome or polished nickel. Its intricate details are finished with a diamond-tipped tool developed by Patek Philippe, the renowned Swiss watchmaking firm. \$990/set of two, Pitella; www.pittella.com.au.



#### Or try these...

Crystal clarity Add instant glamour with the K57 Royal Crystal knob, featuring Swarovski crystal and chrome, \$15 (25x28mm); handlehouse.com.au. Good grains The understated L4396 knob makes a chic adornment for simple cabinetry. It comes in oak or walnut with a boldly coloured centre, \$10 (34x29mm); www. kethy.com.au. In the round Crafted from shimmery conch shell and polished nickel, MP6742\_PN knobs look like vintage French buttons. Lovely for dressing up bedrooms or bathroom drawers, \$20 (30cm diameter); motherofpearl.com. High calibre Make a strong statement with a modern classic: the bullet-shaped 935 brass door knob, available in a polished or satin chrome finish, \$165/set of two (65x52mm); www.pittella.com.au.



he latest figures from Animal Medicines Australia, peak body of animal health services, reveal that 63 per cent of Australian households have a pet. And we love them. After all, our furry companions deliver happiness and affection. But there's something else they bestow upon us: their waste.

"People are looking for environmentally friendly ways to deal with pet poo," says Maree O'Malley, owner of EnsoPet. "Pet waste is an organic, carbon-rich material and it should go back to the soil. Where it shouldn't go is into plastic bags and then into landfill. Landfill is an airless environment and waste needs oxygen to decompose properly."

When Maree began selling Bokashi composting buckets a decade ago, she was frequently asked, "Can I put dog poo in it?" This led her to create the EnsoPet, a composting container that sits in the ground and has a flap into which you drop pet waste with a scoop or tongs. A special microbial starter (more potent than the mix used in Bokashi) is sprinkled over the waste to accelerate its breakdown, eliminate smell and deal with any pathogens. You can put cat litter in too (so long as it's made from organic material) and waste from other pets.

"The waste breaks down quickly to enrich the surrounding soil in your garden with microbes and to create a healthy environment for worms," says O'Malley. The basic EnsoPet kit costs \$69 and, one year on from its launch, has been well received. "One day I'd love to see a larger-scale version installed in dog parks," she says. "When you see the bins in parks overflowing with plastic bags, you begin to realise the need for an alternative way to deal with dog poo."

Someone else with an interest in ways to deal with pet waste is Duncan Chew. The Melbourne-based sustainability consultant developed Poo Power, a prototype biogas generator that takes dog waste and cleverly turns it into energy that can power lighting in dog parks. "There was a lot of buzz around its potential, but after the 2013 Federal election there was a dramatic cut to funding for renewableenergy projects," he says. And so the idea is still waiting for its time to shine. "Poo Power is a project that promotes the idea that something we would usually throw away can be useful," says Chew. "With big-picture thinking, we can apply this idea to all manner of organic waste." H&G For more information about EnsoPet, go to www.bokashi.com.au.



The smallest things can make a surprisingly big difference to our sense of well-being and harmony. Getting the small things perfect makes us feel like all is right in the world. Like having a toilet paper that's the perfect balance of softness and strength. As long as it's the right way round, of course.



Small detail, big difference.



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#### **BUYER BEWARE**

Strata reports will give you a more complete picture than quoted strata levies, but these reports are not infallible so be sure to get building and pest inspections also. Make sure, too, that the property has a healthy sinking fund. I recently pulled out of a purchase because a 96-unit strata complex had only \$9000 in its sinking fund. Only after I pulled out did the agent tell me that he had seven 'failed sales' in that complex due to strata reports.

#### property

## strata savvy



If you're buying a unit or townhouse, take the time to inspect the strata report and you'll avoid that sinking feeling, writes **Harvey Grennan**.



hen buying a unit or townhouse, it is common practice to obtain building and pest reports before you sign on the dotted line. These reports will cover all the potential faults, right? Wrong.

With a strata-title property, only the unit you are purchasing will be covered by the report. The inspector may make a few comments about the development in general, but they won't tell you the full story.

Many newer developments have structural, waterproofing and firesafety issues that do not become apparent until the building is a few years old and these can cost millions of dollars to fix.

The best way to find out about the structural integrity of the building and what needs fixing is to examine the strata records, which contain the minutes of executive committee discussions and any building reports. These records are held at the strata manager's office and you may inspect them for a small fee. The more common practice is to obtain a strata report. It costs about \$250 and it's money well spent.

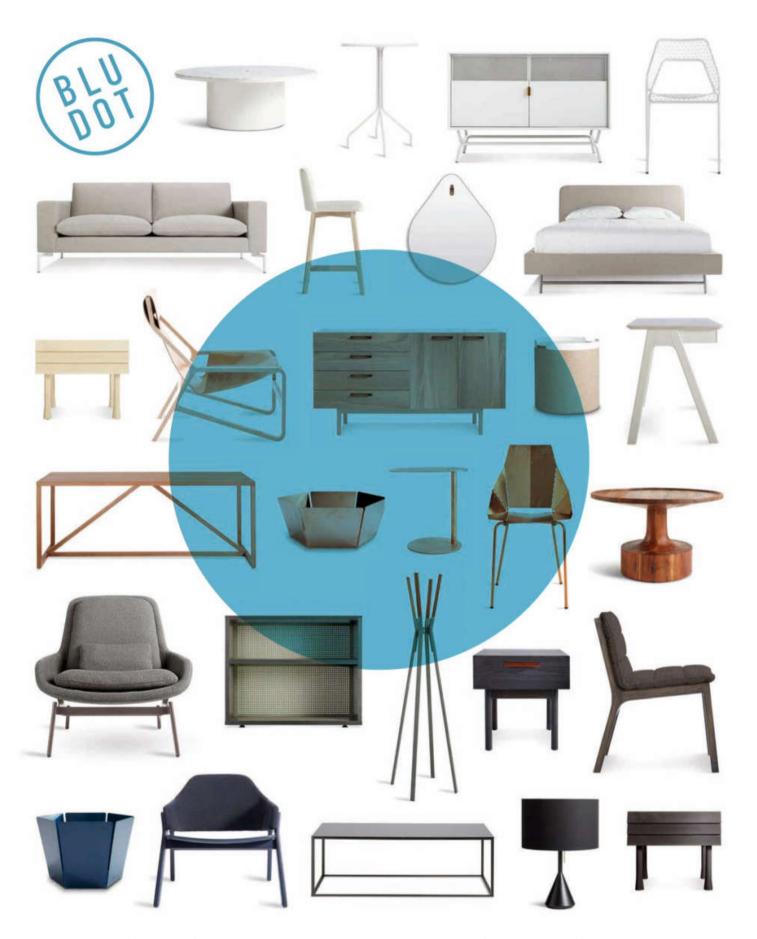
#### A strata report will tell you:

♣ The amount paid in quarterly strata fees, which will then be

- divided into administrative and 'sinking' funds (a fund to cover any major repairs).
- **→** The sinking fund balance.
- ♣ Additional special levies, past or planned, to cover known problems.
- ♣ Any building issues that have been fixed, are scheduled to be fixed, or deferred because they are difficult to fix.
- ♣ Information about the owners' corporation, unit entitlements, financial reports, by-laws, any council notices or legal actions, and insurance.

The quality of strata reports can vary so check that the strata search firm you choose holds indemnity insurance to cover you if they give bad or insufficient advice.

Pay particular attention to the amount held in the sinking fund and whether the executive committee has outlined anticipated annual outlays for maintenance. Many committees think it's better to keep a low amount in the sinking fund in order to keep quarterly strata levies low. Great in theory, but if a major building issue arises, owners will be slugged with a hefty special levy. Also have a good look at the by-laws, particularly if you have a pet.





# SHOPPING







**\$100** / Nkuku hammered-glass bottle, Telegram Open House.



**\$6, \$20** / Fresh acrylic tumblers, \$6/each, Domayne. Voler glass jug, \$20, Provincial Home Living.



**\$69** / Block wooden pegboard (40.5x 30cm), The Bowerbird's Nest.



**\$20, \$25** / Lacquered-resin teaspoons, \$20/each, and parfait spoons, \$25/each, Sublime Designs.



**\$70** / Lacquered-bamboo salad bowl and servers set, Sublime Designs.

#### **H&G** SHOPPING



**\$20** / Impressions set of four porcelain bowls in Indie, Freedom.



**\$20, \$13** / Milkmaid glass jugs, \$20 (1L), and \$13 (300ml), Freedom.



**\$39** / Homemaker four-slice toaster in White, Kmart.



\$100 / Neval Light wooden table lamp with metal shade in Tangerine/ Natural, Beacon Lighting.



**\$7** / Test tube vases in wooden holder, Kmart.



\$25 / Hello Yellow set of four porcelain bowls, Kikki.K.



\$16 / Brooklyn polyresin 24cm pillar-candle stands, \$16/each, Target.



\$10, \$25, \$35 / Kraft tape, \$10, The Society Inc. X Single A4 portrait wooden document drawer, \$25, and X Double A4 landscape document drawers, \$35, Officeworks.



\$50 / Sanza embroidered-cotton cushions (50x50cm) in Buttercup & White and Blanc White, \$50/each, Provincial Home Living.



\$50 / Tessa 1 Seater rattan chair, Fantastic Furniture.



\$70, \$27 / Perforated leather personal planner in Peach, \$70, and matching pencil case, \$27, Kikki.K.



\$20, \$90 / House & Home cane basket, \$20, Big W. Mark Tuckey MT tacking-stitch cotton blanket (130x180cm), \$90, Cotton On.

**\$29** / Peter Morrissey for Big W cotton turkish towel (100x180cm), Big W.

Britta birch chair with poly-cotton upholstery, \$100, Mocka. Zarine cotton cushion in Yellow, \$40, Bed Bath N' Table. Mark Tuckey MT tacking-stitch cotton blanket, \$90, Cotton On. Avignon wicker and wire basket, \$80, Freedom. Herringbone cotton and jute rug (120x 180cm) in Dark Grey, \$69, Target. Noosa polyurethane-lacquer console, \$69, Fantastic Furniture. ON CONSOLE Brooklyn polyresin pillar-candle stand, \$16, Target. Test tube vases in wooden holder, \$7, Kmart. Rosera Ivory Tonal Vase Collection stoneware urn (top shelf), \$89, and wood and ceramic vase (bottom shelf), \$74, Pottery Barn. Nkuku

hammered-glass bottle, \$100, Telegram Open House.

**H&G SHOPPING** 



\$30 / Lisa T soy candle in ceramic holder in Peach, Target.





\$23 / Corinne metal jug in Corn, Provincial Home Living.



\$40, \$50 / Sunrise cotton cushion in Yellow/White (50x50cm), \$40, Freedom. Mark Tuckey MT knitted-cotton bolster (60cm) in Milk/Manderin, \$50, Cotton On.



\$40 / Jimmy Stand MDF and bamboo shoe stand (79x32x46cm), Mocka. Accessories, stylist's own.

#### **H&G** SHOPPING



\$14 / Glam acrylic cotton-pad holder and canister, \$14/each, Domayne.



\$30 / Marius Fabre 500ml liquid soaps in Honeysuckle and Apricot, \$30/each, Telegram Open House.



cotton hand towel, \$15, and bath towel, \$35, Bed Bath N' Table.



\$35, \$15, \$30 / Bamboo shelf, \$35, Kmart. World's Softest Super Dry damask cotton hand towels in Dune, \$15/ each, and bath towels, \$30/each, Adairs.



\$15 / Fryken rattan boxes with lids, \$15/set of three, Ikea.



\$25 / Chandler metal wastepaper bin in Acid (30cm), Freedom.



\$19 / Pineapple cotton beach towel, Big W.



**\$13, \$13, \$20 /** Morgan & Finch Weaver polyresin soap dish, \$13, tumbler, \$13, and soap dispenser, \$20, Bed Bath N' Table.



\$40 / Watermelon-scented soy candle, Palm Beach Collection.











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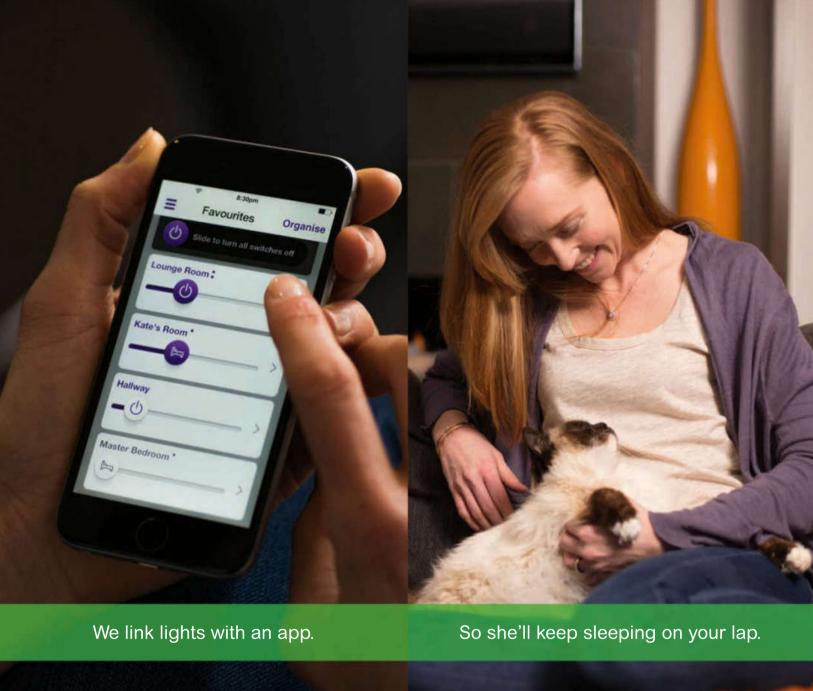
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1 / Sanderson Maycott Angel Ferns wallpaper in Indigo (52cm), from \$105/10m roll, Domestic Textile Corporation; www.domestictextile. com.au. 2 / Tim Neve Anchorage Caxton Blueprint non-woven wallpaper in Original (149cm), \$92/m, Sparkk; www.sparkk.com.au.
3 / Maharani wallpaper in Tea Rose (53cm), \$164/10.5m roll, Porter's Paints; www.porterspaints.com. 4 / Elitis Narcisse Parfums vinyl on non-woven wallpaper in Colour 02 (70cm), \$413/10m roll, Seneca Textiles; www.senecatextiles.com. 5 / Phillip Jeffries Moroccan hemp wallpaper in Navy (83cm), \$195/m, The Textile Company; www.textilecompany.com.au. 6 / Cole & Son Folie Rousseau wallpaper (68cm), \$300/10m roll, Radford; radfordfurnishings.com. 7 / First Collection Scallop Dots non-woven wallpaper in Rust (61.5cm), \$230/10m roll, These Walls; www.thesewalls.com.au. 8 / Narrow Stripe wallpaper in Yacht Club (53cm), \$145/10.5m roll, Porter's Paints. 9 / Colourwash Collection Linea wallpaper in Vermilion (71cm), \$66/m, Quercus & Co; www.quercusandco.com. Chatenay timber console in Rustique Antique White, \$1099, and Hampton basket in Grande, \$149, both La Maison; www.lamaison.net.au.



1 / Alistair Law Twist glass lamp in Pink, \$195, Seletti; www.seletti.com.au. 2 / Mix and Match Amelia glass halogen shade, \$40, Freedom; www.freedom.com.au. 3 / 3 Watt Vintage LED Teardrop glass bulb, \$35, Edison Light Globes; edisonlightglobes.com. 4 / Diamond Filament bulb in Smoked Glass, \$65, Luxe Lighting; www.luxelighting.com.au. 5 / NUD Collection Low- energy fluorescent glass bulb in Stripe, \$49, Turn Funky; www.turnfunky.com.au. 6 / Fancy Candle glass globe, \$13, Schots Home Emporium; www.schots.com.au. 7 / LED Filament Crown Gold glass globe, \$65, Volker Haug; www.volkerhaug.com. 8 / ST64 LED Triangular glass bulb, \$55, Luxe Lighting. 9 / Plumen 9W ES Deco CFL glass globe in Warm White, \$45, Beacon Lighting; www.beaconlighting.com.au.



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#### PATTI'S DAY LOOKS LIKE THIS ...

8am: Patti starts her day with breakfast at home with hubby Bert and granddaughter Lola, before dropping Lola off at kindergarten. Spending time with Lola is one of Patti's favourite things and she relishes having the chance to do so.

10am: Back at home, Patti enjoys a cup of tea while catching up on a few emails and paying the dreaded household bills.

11am: Patti hops in the car and heads off to the hairdressers. For over 30 years Patti has been visiting Edward Beale hairdressing for a little bit of pampering; it's her 'me time'.

12pm: As a special treat, Patti takes grandkids Sam, Eva and Lola to see The Wiggles. The kids wiggle their way through their favourite songs.

**6pm:** Back at home around the table, Patti and the family enjoy dinner together, they share stories and the grandkids have one last cuddle before heading off to bed.

8pm: Patti and daughter Lauren always have lots of fun together. Tonight it's a black tie event, and they enjoy glamming up for a girls' night out.

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#### **H&G** ADVICE

### CARING FOR TOWELS

Frances Moran, head of design and development at Canningvale Australia, shares her top tips for keeping towels soft, fluffy and absorbent:

- Choose a mild detergent; avoid those with added softeners as they leave a waxy residue and impede drying.
- Wash towels at 30°C or lower on a wool, gentle or hand-wash cycle set to the minimum spin speed.
- To prevent fading, wash similar-coloured towels together and avoid washing powders with optical brightening agents.
- Line-dry towels until almost dry, then complete in a tumble dryer on a warm setting.
- ♣ If your towels are no longer absorbent, try reviving them with this doublewashing technique: first warm wash on gentle/ delicate cycle, adding 1 cup of plain white vinegar to the rinse cycle (with a top loader, dilute vinegar in a bucket of water first). Follow immediately with a second warm wash on gentle/delicate cycle; adding half a cup of bicarb soda to the rinse cycle. Tumble dry.

◀ towel or an extravagantly trimmed or patterned towel are just as indulgent.

A great towel is only as good as the materials it's made from. Egyptian, Turkish and pima cottons, with their longer staple (fibre length), are considered the best for towels as they are stronger, softer and more absorbent than other cottons.

Towel weight is measured in grams per square metre (gsm) and towels range from 350-900gsm. But a towel that weighs more isn't necessarily better quality. "Towels made from zero-twist cotton [yarn where the fibres are strong enough to not require twisting] can be luxurious at 450-500gsm, whereas regular-yarn towels should be 650gsm-plus," says Matthew Greenbank, product manager for bathroom, bedding and soft furnishings at Adairs. "Be wary of towels over 800gsm as they can be cumbersome to use." A towel with a gsm above 800gsm will be super-absorbent but will also take longer to dry.

One of the great things about towels is their ability to refresh and update a bathroom for little outlay. "New towels take the focus off a bathroom with imperfect bones, and show that you've given the space thought and love," says Kate Pascoe Squires, director at Kate & Kate, who designs bold, graphic towels. Colour trends in towels run the spectrum from neutrals to bright jewel and fluoro tones. "If there's one thing Australians have embraced in recent years it's colour," says Tracie Ellis, creative director at Aura by Tracie Ellis. "This season we're embracing striking patterns and contrasting trims. We've taken our lead from the restrained aesthetic of Scandinavia and the bolder, vibrant

colours of mid-century modern design." Geometric patterns are popular, says Greenbank, but looser, more organic geometrics are topping shoppers' wish lists this season. The latest releases also include marles and summer pastels.

Texture is also adding a new level of interest. "Towels with three-dimensional surface textures and cut-pile are back, not to mention tassels and fringes," says Sue Morris, head of design at Linen House. Other textures on offer include ribs, waffle and jacquard weaves, and drop-pile checks. For those who prefer a raw, natural aesthetic, Hacienda's fine honeycomb waffle weave towels will appeal.

High-tech weave techniques have changed the playing field, too. Sheridan's new Quick Dry towels, for example, are made from a high-density, fine-cotton weave that results in a towel that dries in a flash. Microfibre towels promise a similarly speedy drying time.

Meanwhile velour, once the preserve of beach towels, is making an appearance in bathrooms, with companies such as Ninnho and Kate & Kate embracing its velvety texture and ability to carry an intricate or painterly design.

When you're browsing in-store, there are some checks it's important to carry out. "The towel should be perfectly edged, with no pulled threads, and perfectly rectangular," says Paul Gould, group general manager at Sheridan. "Ensure the towel doesn't feel 'slimy'; this means it has been finished with softener to give a false impression of the towel's softness. Towels with a slimy feel will not wash well. They lose their softness once washed."

#### Eco towels

It's worth keeping environmental considerations top of mind when choosing towels:

Organic cotton Ideal for children or those with sensitive skin, these towels are made without the use of chemical dyes. Look for the Australian Certified Organic or the Global Organic Textile Standard logos. Expect to pay 25-30 per cent more for these towels.

Bamboo Made from a sustainable material and about 40 per cent more absorbent than cotton, they feel super soft against the skin. Choose from pure bamboo or cotton-bamboo mixes.

Bamboo has antibacterial properties, so towels are less likely to collect artificial scents such as perfumes on the surface. You'll pay 15-25 per cent more for bamboo.



CLASSIC CORDUROY RIB BATH TOWELS, \$30/EACH

These 56 ogsm micro-ribbed cotton towels, shown in White, Grey, Black and Ice Blue, are designed to dry fast. They look good, too, featuring a wide hem for a contemporary touch.

Canningvale; 1800 801 728 or www.canningvale.com.



## CHINESE KEY BATH TOWELS, \$40/EACH

Wrap yourself in towels with a generous 650gsm weight and pedigree pattern taken from the archives of design legend Florence Broadhurst. Shown here in Teal, Nacy, White and Parchment. Florence Broadhurst; (02) 9938 2333 or www.florence broadhurstaustralia.com.au.



### LARSEN BATH TOWELS, \$30/EACH

These affordable premiumcotton towels boast a drop-pile front and a solid terry reverse for efficient drying. Colourways include Silver Grey, Zesty Yellow, White and Indigo. Country Road; www. countryroad.com.au.



### ETON BATH TOWELS, \$40/EACH

home.com.au.

Combed-cotton towels featuring a square drop-pile texture in a chevron pattern with a plain terry border. They're a generous 600gsm in weight. Teal, Linen, White and Silver colourways are pictured here.

Royal Doulton; (O2) 9938
2333 or www.royaldoulton



DRI.GLO GENOA BATH TOWELS, \$35/EACH

Snuggle into these 580gsm beauties, made with long-staple combed cotton for maximum absorbency and durability, with an appealing geometric pattern. Shown here in Charcoal, Silver, Sky and Parchment.

David Jones; 133 357 or www.davidjones.com.au.



### ALEX PERRY FOR LINEN HOUSE ALEXANDER BATH TOWELS, \$45/EACH

A strong designer statement in double-combed, 600gsm cotton, with a relief-patterned jacquard front and solid terry reverse. Colourways include Black, Atmosphere, Raven and White. Linen House; 1300 350 886 or www.linenhouse.com.



STEVIE HAND TOWEL, \$33, AND BATH TOWELS, \$55/EACH

Hand-finished tassels and wide, flat-weave borders distinguish these soft, thirsty towels in Turkish cotton, pictured in the White and Graphite colourways. Sheridan; 1800 223 376 or www.sheridan.com.au.



### PURE COTTON TURKISH BATH TOWELS, \$74/EACH, BEMBOKA

These luxurious 650gsm combed cotton towels - shown here in Grey, Dove, White and Wheat - are coloured with organic dyes, have double-stitched edges to prevent fraying and shrink-resistant borders.

Bemboka; (02) 9360 1224 or www.bemboka.com.au.

### **H&G** ADVICE



### **PATTERNED AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN PALM BEACH BATH TOWELS, \$30/EACH**

For high-impact decor, you can't go past our own range of highly absorbent, looped-pile cotton towels, shown here in Denim/White (left) and Charcoal/White. And at 550gsm, they won't weigh you down. Myer; 1800 811 611 or www.myer.com.au.



### ZABA BATH TOWELS, **\$45/EACH**

The geometric motif and funky Yellow (left) and Aqua colourways make these towels an excellent choice for a modern bathroom. They're made from absorbent cotton terry and weigh in at 500gsm. Kas Australia: www.kasaustralia.com.au.



### **NEVADA BATH TOWELS,** \$35/EACH

With their bright colours and funky geometric patterns, these woven-cotton towels look equally stylish hung on their own or paired with contrasting designs in solid colours. Shown in Teal (left) and Multi. Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au.



### **AURA BY TRACIE ELLIS** STRIPES BATH TOWELS. \$50/EACH

Bold stripes and on-trend colours such as Black and Pastel Pink define these chic towels. They're made from super-absorbent cotton, with a weight of 580gsm. Domayne; www. domayneonline.com.au.



M.U.S.E. TRIANGLE **BATH TOWELS, \$35/EACH** 

Great for the bathroom, beach or pool, these 600gsm towels feature a zesty modern pattern and eye-catching colours such as Slate (left) and Yellow. They're woven from quality two-ply combed cotton and made to last. Pillow Talk; 1800 630 690 or www.pillowtalk.com.au.



### **BUDGIE BATH TOWEL** (LEFT) AND WREN BATH TOWEL, \$59/EACH

Melbourne artist Antoinette Ferwerda's limited-edition designs have gained a loyal following among designers and celebrity homeowners. Woven from double-sided velour and terry, they weigh 550gsm. Ninnho; 0422 446 114 or www.ninnho.com.au.



### IZMIR BATH TOWELS, **\$40/EACH**

Made in Turkey using traditional methods, these 550gsm towels in loop-pile cotton have a textured finish and knotted fringe. A handsome addition to the bathroom. Colourways include Ink/Ivory (left) and Blue/Ivory. Bed Bath N' Table; www. bedbathntable.com.au.



### SEA TANGLE BATH SHEETS, **\$99/EACH**

Luxuriously soft and large (100x150cm), these 600gsm towels can go from bath to beach. They feature a velour front and a terry reverse for maximum absorbency. Shown in Excalibur/Snow (left) and Arona/Snow. Kate & Kate; www.

kateandkate.com.au. H&G



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Nkuku glass and metal **frame** (20x25cm), \$50, Telegram Open House. Maya MDF and bamboo **bedside table**, \$50, Mocka. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE from left** Fold metal **tray** in Melon, \$30, Country Road. Watermelon-scented soy **candle**, \$40, Palm Beach Collection. Fryken rattan **box** with lid, \$15/set of three, Ikea. Milkmaid glass **jug**, \$13, Freedom. Neva 1 Light wooden **table lamp** with metal shade, \$100, Beacon Lighting.

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The architect of this Queensland renovation took his open brief literally, designing an indoor-outdoor extension that suits the family to a tee. To see more, turn to page 124. Photograph by Maree Homer.

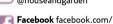


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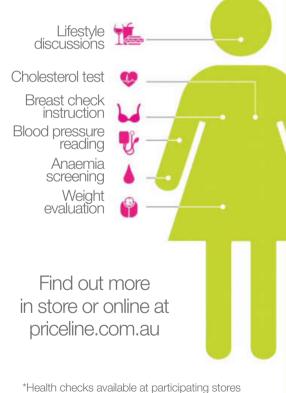
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